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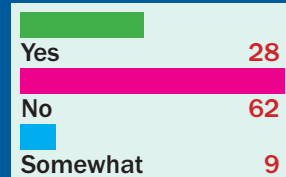
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POLL RESULTS

Do you plan to celebrate Valentine's Day this year?



Sunday, February 16, 2014

INSIDE

BUSINESS



President Obama says we need to figure out how to satisfy US water needs.

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ASIA



Indonesia's Mount Kelud's eruption is seen as both a curse and a blessing.

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LIFE & STYLE



With 1.23 billion users, Facebook knows a thing or two about love.

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TDHC's Blyth enters agreement with US govt. PAGE 2
Govendo allows Kosam to testify; seals testimony. PAGE 3

15 bets so far running with Inos

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Republican Party has so far 15 names on its slate for the general elections in November, but the figure is expected to grow once the official lineup is finalized for Tinian and Rota this week.

The 15 confirmed candidates are running for positions up for grabs on Saipan. A few names may soon be added to the list once other potential candidates confirm their intention to run under the GOP banner.

Leading the GOP slate for the Nov. 6 elections is the tandem of incumbent Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President

Ralph Torres, who led yesterday's picnic and get-together in Susupe where hundreds of supporters showed up for the team.

In a random check at yesterday's event, *Saipan Tribune* got personal confirmation from majority of the 15 candidates who will pursue their political ambitions

See BETS on Page 4



Hot celebration of 10th Tinian Pika Festival

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The 10th edition of the popular Tinian Hot Pepper Festival this year drew hundreds of visitors and island residents to Kammer Beach, in celebration of the island's *donni sali*, a small but potent hot

pepper that is indigenous to the island. The hot celebration carried on despite the heat of a blazing weekend on Feb. 15 to 16.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz led this year's festivities that included many visitors from Saipan, Rota, and Guam. Tourists and athletes joined in for the

enjoyment of local food, fun and games, eye-catching performances, and ceremonies.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) was among government officials that attended the event. He said he feels great that he was able attend the

See FESTIVAL on Page 4

Contestants in JC Café's Pikacious Burger Eating Contest power through despite the heat from both the burgers and the blazing sun by drinking prodigious amounts of water during Saturday's 10th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

JAYSON CAMACHO

See more photos on Pages 14-15

Ex-Saipan mayor Jesus Deleon Guerrero, 82

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Saipan mayor Jesus "Gere" Sablan Deleon Guerrero passed away on Friday morning, Valentine's Day, due to pancreatic cancer. He was 82.

Deleon Guerrero's only wish was to return to the home he loved and he died

as the helicopter was on its final descent onto Saipan from Guam, according to a family member.

Deleon Guerrero served as Saipan mayor from 1990 to 1998.

The family member said that Deleon Guerrero was diagnosed with cancer only last New Year's Eve.

Attorney Viola Alepuyo told *Saipan*

Tribune that she grew up in Deleon Guerrero and his wife's home and in the United States. Deleon Guerrero's wife is Alepuyo's mother's sister.

Alepuyo said Deleon Guerrero was a mentor to her husband, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

"He was a great, wise man who we consulted on all that we did," Alepuyo said.

Deleon Guerrero is survived by his wife, Victoria Alepuyo Deleon Guerrero. They have 10 children: Joseph Alepuyo Deleon Guerrero (deceased), Antonio Camacho (deceased), Juan Camacho, Juan A. Deleon Guerrero, Mariann V. Fernandez, Perdita DLG. Roberto, Anna R. Villagomez, Jesse A. Deleon Guerrero, Rose Marie A. Deleon Guerrero, and Ammalyn Victoria A. Deleon Guerrero.

Local

FBI expert certified to testify at Crisostomo's trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday certified as an expert Federal Bureau of Investigation physical scientist/forensic examiner

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Linda M. Otterstatter to testify on hair and fiber evidence in connection with the upcoming jury trial of murder suspect Joseph A. Crisostomo.

Camacho also declared on Friday IT&E manager for network services James Calderwood as custodian of record so he can testify on phone records.

A Daubert hearing will continue tomorrow, Tuesday, with Lara Adams, another FBI forensic examiner, to testify via Skype regarding hair and fiber evi-

dence. Otterstatter and Adams both work at the FBI laboratory division in Quantico, Virginia.

A Daubert hearing is a proceeding held before trial to determine whether a proposed expert meets the requirements.

Assistant attorneys general Margo Brown and Chemere McField appeared for the Commonwealth at the hearing. Attorney Janet H. King represented Crisostomo.

Crisostomo faces charges of kidnapping and killing bar-

tender Emerita Romero, whose body was found in the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on

Feb. 7, 2012. The jury trial will start on April 7, 2014.

The government intends to in-

roduce at trial evidence of testing and analysis of hair and fiber and mitochondrial DNA evidence.

Tinian Dynasty casino GM Blyth irons deal with US govt

Tinian Dynasty's casino general manager Tim Blyth has entered an agreement with the U.S. government in exchange for the dismissal of the criminal charges filed against him.

Assistant U.S. attorney Marivic David and Blyth, through counsel Mark Hanson, have filed a joint motion for approval of their deferred prosecution agreement.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona approved the deferred prosecution agreement Friday.

Under the agreement, the case against Blyth would be held in abeyance or suspended for a period of 18 months.

If Blyth satisfies the conditions of the agreement, the U.S. government would drop the charges against him.

Manglona said the period of delay outlined in the agreement is enough to allow Blyth to demonstrate good conduct.

It is not clear whether the deferred prosecution agreement document is sealed or not.

At a hearing on Feb. 10, the federal court unsealed the information filed against Blyth. At the same hearing, Blyth pleaded

not guilty.

Manglona vacated Blyth's jury trial, currently set for tomorrow, Feb. 18.

Manglona granted the parties' request to have the defendant's pre-trial release conditions amended so that supervision would not be necessary, provided that he maintains contact with his attorney.

Manglona amended the pre-trial conditions in the appearance bond to reflect that Blyth be released on a \$50,000 unsecured bond, appear for court proceedings, and, if convicted, to surrender to serve any sentence the court may impose.

Blyth is among those charged of allegedly engaging in a conspiracy to allow gamblers to conduct transactions involving more than \$10,000 without filing the required paperwork with the U.S. government.

Last May 9, the U.S. government filed an indictment against Blyth, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments, Ltd., which owns Tinian Dynasty, and VIP services manager George Que.

The indictment charged the defendants with one count of

conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report and nine counts of causing a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report.

Last April 25, federal agents arrested Que and executed warrants to seize Tinian Dynasty property and its money in bank accounts. Blyth was off-island at the time.

Federal agents reportedly seized a total of \$539,969.12 in U.S. funds and foreign and domestic currencies belonging to Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. They are also seeking the forfeiture of the funds as well as \$16,551,492 more in money and other property.

According to the charges, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino allowed gamblers to conduct transactions involving more than \$10,000 without filing Currency Transaction Reports with the U.S. government since September 2009 to the present.

Federal law requires that a CTR be filed with the Internal Revenue Service by financial institutions, including casinos, for any cash transaction over \$10,000. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

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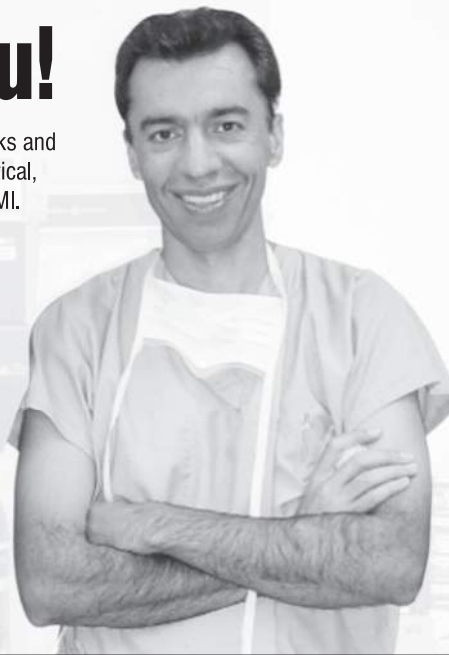
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DESPITE STRONG OPPOSITION BY OPA, KOSAM'S ATTORNEY**Govendo allows Kosam to testify; seals testimony**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Despite strong opposition by the Office of the Public Auditor and the lawyer of former Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordan Kosam, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo allowed former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham to call Kosam to the witness stand on Friday.

After placing the matter under advisement twice, Govendo ruled that he is going to allow Kosam to testify and that any information generated in his testimony cannot be used in his pending criminal case.

Govendo, who is presiding over the bench trial of Buckingham, ruled that Kosam should proceed with his testimony unless the CNMI Supreme Court orders the trial court not to do so.

Govendo then instructed the media and the public to leave the courtroom.

Kosam completed his testimony late Friday afternoon, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Before the sealed hearing, attorney Richard Pierce, counsel for Buckingham, called Kosam to the witness stand.

Kosam talked about his background and admitted that he was at the Saipan International Airport when Buckingham and his wife came in the early morning of Aug. 4, 2012.

Pierce asked Kosam if he had a desire at the time in assisting to block someone from serving a penal summons upon Buckingham.

Attorney Joaquin Torres, counsel for Kosam, stood up

and invoked his client's right to remain silent as his statement might incriminate him in his pending criminal case.

Pierce explained that Kosam's testimony is material to his client, Buckingham.

Govendo said it is not the court's role to grant or not to grant immunity to Kosam for testifying.

Govendo asked Torres if he objects to the playing of a video regarding Kosam's testimony at the impeachment proceedings of then-governor Benigno R. Fitial.

Torres said he definitely objects as this will prejudice Kosam.

"I haven't seen the video!" Torres added.

Hasselback, who also opposed allowing Kosam to testify, said this is unprecedented in the CNMI as there was never an impeachment proceeding before.

Govendo called for a recess and when the hearing resumed, he announced that he will allow Kosam to testify.

Hasselback urged Govendo to reconsider as he believes it will have far-reaching implications.

Govendo said this is not immunity but simply means that whatever Kosam says in court cannot be used against him in subsequent proceedings.

Torres asked if the court will allow playing the video. Govendo said he will allow Kosam to testify without the video, but that it cannot be used against him in his criminal case.

Torres said it is scary because OPA is the government in this case and if Hasselback is allowed to sit in court, he believes

that compelling Kosam to testify is a violation of Kosam's constitutional rights.

Govendo then announced that he will place the matter under advisement.

After a few minutes, Govendo announced that he stands pat in his decision to allow Kosam to testify.

Kosam, Fitial, former police captain Jermaine Joseph Wabol Nekaifes, former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogu-moro, and several others are among those charged by OPA of alleged conspiracy to shield Buckingham from being served with the penal summons.

Before Kosam, Pierce called

two character witnesses: Patrick Ahlstrom and Craig Truman, who both testified telephonically.

Ahlstrom is a former Colorado Department of Public Safety

executive director and a former area director at the Transportation Security Administration. He used to work with Bucking-

ham at Colorado DPS.

Truman is a defense lawyer in Colorado.

Ahlstrom and Truman vouched for Buckingham's professionalism and integrity, among other things.

Buckingham's bench trial will continue tomorrow, Tuesday, at 9am.

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Successful mobile consular service concludes on Saipan

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam wrapped up its first mobile consular services on Saipan on Thursday, with Consul Edgar Thomas Q. Auxillian describing the three-day operation a "great success."

He said the mobile consular service, held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, was able to process 380 e-passports, 17 machine readable ready passports, 144 extension of passports, 18 authentications, 11 Philippines Department of Labor and Employment contract verification, 19 notarials, and one dual citizenship.

Auxillian said they were able to issue MRRP (the old green passports) to those who didn't have an appointment but needed to have their passports extended for emergency health issues or



Philippine Consulate General in Guam consul Edgar Thomas Q. Auxillian, center, poses with his staff and volunteers from the United Filipino Organization at the end of the three-day mobile consular services on Saipan last Thursday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

because they needed to file their CW visas.

The MRRP passports are

valid for only over a year and expires on October 2015.

"This is requirement by De-

partment of Foreign Affairs that by November 2014 all that we should be using are already elec-

tronic passports. We also made extension of passports for the purpose of renewing their CW permits and similar needs up to October 2015. It's a one-year extension only to accommodate their needs that they have six months valid passport."

A mix-up in email addresses also led to the accommodation of more than their 360-person quota.

"We originally announced 360 but then when we forgot to track down the numbers of applications we received via email. We realized later on that we already exceeded 360. So we just accommodated everyone. Internally we put a limit of 400 but 20 didn't show up."

He said some emailed their applications to the consulate general's email address instead of saipan.pcgagana@gmail.com, which was specifically set up to take appointments for e-passports.

"We advise our *kababayans* here, especially those who are applying for renewals of e-passports, to address their applications to the correct email address. Also read the advisories and announcements on Facebook, newspapers, and radio and try to send it as soon as possible."

The email snafu notwithstanding, Auxillian said he was still happy with how the three-day consular outreach turned out.

"It was a lot better than the previous mobile consular services that we've conducted here on Saipan. For one it was very orderly, the pre-appointment system that we tried to adapt re-

ally helped us tremendously. I also would like to thank our *kababayans* who applied for passports for their patience and most especially for their cooperation and understanding. It was very orderly and a great success. I also beg for the understanding of those whom we didn't accommodate."

He also extended his gratitude to the United Filipino Organization led by its president Annamae Adaza.

"To our volunteers from UFO and some who are not members but still helped us. From the bottom of our hearts we really appreciate them for their great help. They helped us a lot in terms of maintaining order, assisting those coming in by directing them to which station they should go, and giving advice to our *kababayans* in filling out the forms and things like that."

Joining Auxillian on the trip to Saipan were six staff from the consulate general in Guam: passport officer Francisco Magno, communications and information officer Allan Tangayan, finance officer Lisa Manarin, administrative officer Thelma Sta. Maria, cultural officer Mildred Sayurin, and consular assistant Lani Revilla.

The next consular service on Saipan will be held in May 2014 and will include the islands of Tinian and Rota. Auxillian said there is also a chance a representative from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration will join them in May as a request has already been forward to OWWA for this purpose. **(Mark Rabago)**

BETS

From Page 1

under the "Grand Old Party."

For the Saipan Senate seats, the GOP has two contenders: Arnold Palacios and Oscar Babauta, both former House lawmakers.

For the House of Representatives, 11 people affirmed their decision to enter or re-enter politics.

For Precinct 1, the GOP will be fielding four candidates: press secretary Angel Demapan, former lawmaker Richard Seman, Joseph Guerrero, and Gregorio Muña-Sablan Jr. Six positions up for grabs in this precinct.

Precinct 2 chair Jesus Lizama said they have two candidates for this precinct: incumbent Ralph Demapan and incumbent John Paul Sablan.

For Precinct 3, the GOP has for now two sure bets: incumbent Rep. Felicidad Ogunoro and former representative Stanley Torres. Six positions up for grabs in this election district.

GOP candidates for Precinct 4 are incumbent George Camacho and fellow incumbent Christopher Guerrero.

For Precinct 5, which has two posts that need to be filled, incumbent congressman Antonio Agulto has confirmed running in this district.

Some party chairmen disclosed yesterday that there remains "a few names" on the list of potential GOP candidates but they have yet to decide or confirm their decision with the party.

Kickoff rally

Gov. Inos told *Saipan Tribune* that yesterday's picnic and get-together was only the second "party event" held after he announced his candidacy around September last year.

"Since then, we haven't had any follow through events... so I just thought [of this get-together] to keep the momentum going. Plus, we want to prepare them for a bigger event, hope-



Former and incumbent government officials are among the guests in yesterday's Republican Party picnic and get-together in Susupe. From left are Francisco Cruz, Antonio Agulto, Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider, Oscar Babauta, Jesus Lizama, and Arnold Palacios.

fully a kickoff rally that would take place in the very near future with full slate [of candidates]," Inos said, adding that get-togethers and picnics are important to make sure that party supporters are still on track.

As of yesterday, the GOP has yet to elect a new set of officers. This is expected to happen in this week's scheduled meeting where the list of official candidates will also be finalized.

GOP on Tinian, Rota

Saipan Tribune learned that, as of yesterday, there has been no final slate of candidates for Tinian after two GOP bets expressed interest in running for the mayoralty post: JP San Nicolas and Joseph Mendiola.

Sources disclosed that wanting to run with San Nicolas as representative for Tinian is incumbent Trenton Conner; while former congressman Edwin Aldan, it was learned, wants to run for the same position with Mendiola.

On Rota, some sources said that a potential mayoralty candidate for the GOP is Efren Atalig; Steve Mesngon's name is up for House representative; while incumbent Teresita Santos may seek a senatorial seat for Rota.

A final endorsement of official candidates for the two islands is expected this week.

Reforms in governance,

public service

Inos told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the GOP platform will target reforms in two main areas: governance and public service.

He said his administration's two major issues that need resolution are the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Inos expressed concern over the latest results of the Medicare survey that found the public hospital still noncompliant in many areas.

"We got the CMS report and we need to work with the management and the [CHCC] board to ensure we resolve those issues," he said.

Inos is also counting on the newly reconstituted CUC board to soon govern and guide the utilities corporation in its operation.

Happy but not satisfied

Next week will mark Inos' first year in office as governor. When asked how he feels about this, he admitted to not being satisfied with what he has achieved so far.

"I am just finishing up my first year...and I can say, am pretty happy but not altogether satisfied with the accomplishment," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

But, considering the magnitude or severity of the many issues facing the CNMI, Inos said his administration was able

to reduce if not fully resolve the then-multiple challenges of the government.

One notable achievement under Inos' leadership is the settlement reached by parties in the Retirement Fund case. He said there are only two things left to do in the Fund issues: to make sure the money is there to meet the minimum guaranteed payment for the 75 percent pension payout; and restoring the 25-percent cut in the pension of retirees.

"I have no reason to believe that these two will not be done or secured because the issue on 25-percent pension cut is now a working progress," said Inos, adding that a bill is pending at the Legislature, which proposes to establish a "Deferred DB Restoration Fund" where revenues to be identified for the purpose will be deposited in the account.

Inos said this "Restoration Fund" will set the procedure for the manner and amount of how the deferred pension would be restored.

Meantime, the governor conveyed his gratitude for the hard work demonstrated by Northern Marianas College officials and employees that allowed the college to regain its accreditation. Inos emphasized that the government will continue to support the institution and work with NMC to ensure its "sustainability."

FESTIVAL

From Page 1

event this year. "It's great and I'm happy to be here," noting the number of new vendors and so many members of the community participating.

The festival featured performances by Tinian Jr./Sr. High School's JROTC drill team, St. Joseph Catholic School dancers, singer Amanda Jumao-as, XOT Dance Group, Saipan Music & Dance Studio, a rap performance by Josh Castro, Taotao Taga Dance Academy, and many others.

The annual festival also featured 25 vendors that sold food and arts, benerages, clothing, and jewelry. Raffle tickets for given out for prizes.

Docomo Pacific had its own raffle drawing and the winners were Edwin Aldan and Panfilo Deleon, both winning a Blue Zoey with Moodz audio speaker. Deleon also got another courtesy prize—a case of Aloha drinks.

The Northern Marianas College and University of Guam Outreach joined other informational booths.

The highlights of the events were the Umang Race and the hot pepper eating contest for the men and women.

The Umang Race (Chamorro for hermit crab) was won by

Brayden John Iglesias-Santos, whose crab walked off with the \$20 first place prize. Kymani Nabors' hermit crab came second, winning \$15, while that of Kaydrent Borja got third place for \$10.

In the female hot pepper eating contest, which involved eating as much *donni sali* within a short period of time, Lucia Ayuyu emerged as the champion, winning the \$150 cash prize. She was quickly followed by Lamyuan Yenthaisona, who won \$100, and Tina San Nicholas, who got \$75.

Another festival highlight was the JC Café's Pikalicious Burger Eating contest, which Corey San Nicholas won hands down, giving her the \$50 prize. Napu Aldan took second place with \$25 while Joshua Q. Castro placed third with \$15.

Mayor Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* said it was great to see so many people enjoying the festival and he was happy at the overall turn of events.

He was echoed by Antonio SN. Borja, chairman of the 14th Tinian Municipal Council, who said: "It's beautiful and it's a real honor to have the people celebrate here for the *donni sali* festival."

The festival kicked off on Saturday with the 14th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon at 7:30am.



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CASINO

Saint Michael's inks statement of support for ESGR

The Saint Michael's Emergency Medical Team has joined other private employers in the CNMI to express its support for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Company officials and employees participated in a signing of a statement of support for the ESGR Thursday last week.

ESGR is a Department of Defense volunteer organization tasked to educate employers and service members about their rights and responsibilities, especially during times of deployment.

ESGR volunteer Rose Igitol told Saint Michael's that the signing publicly shows that the company supports employees who are service members when they go on training, with the promise that they will have their jobs back when they return from deployment for at least up to 5 years.

Saint Michael's president Joseph Santos said the military is very close to his heart, having been a former U.S. Navy serviceman.

He said the reason he participated in ESGR is that he really supports its mission. "Because we have three service members in our company and I want them to know that our company supports the policy and that we will do everything and anything, and that when they come back from serving



Sitting from left to right, Rose Igitol, Derek T. Hocog (director of Operations) Francis S. Taimanao (director of Compliance), Sgt. Luis Deleon Guerrero (U.S. Army). Standing front, from left: BJ Cruz, Luis Pangelinan, Ben Tesiro, Branson Jay Santos, Froilan Wabol, Joseph Santos (president). Standing back, from left: Mike Concepcion, Chris Selepeo, Nathan Guerrero, Tony C. Guerrero (director of Business Development).

JAYSON CAMACHO

our country we'll make sure they still have their jobs."

One such employee, Terrence Tudela, said, "I feel great about it cause I'm in the Reserves and these guys are good people and the company

is good and I know I'll still have my job."

ESGR, established in 1972, develops employer support for Guard and Reserve members. It advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding

support, increase of awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists

who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian work force.

It serves as the bridge that links employers to understanding the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemploy-

ment Rights Act or USERRA, the law that protects these rights and privileges of National Guard and Reserve employees as well as fosters "a culture of support" for the military. *(Jayson Camacho)*



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NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2014

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,109,520.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$753,815.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$309,400.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$46,306.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2014.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 30, 2013.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **Friday, March 21, 2014, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 21, 2014, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 12, 2014, 5:00 p.m. & February 26, 2014, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

SAIPAN MARINE CORPORATION

Job Opportunities for Temporary Part-time Hire

- BOAT CAPTAINS
- MARINE ENGINEERS
- ABLE SEAMANS
- DECK HANDS

Qualifications:

1. Must have valid Philippine License and Certification
2. Available to work immediately and on call status for tugboat assignments/harbor assist jobs.

We are an equal opportunity employer and comply with all CNMI laws relevant to employment. All qualified candidates will receive serious consideration.

Please apply in person at the Saipan Marine Corporation office located at the Ground Floor CPA Building in Puerto Rico. Telephone # (670) 322-7345 look for Michelle Hamilton.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE

Ex-firefighter pleads guilty to sex exploitation of child

Richard Sullivan Benavente, 43, pleaded guilty on Feb. 10, 2014, to sexual exploitation of a child. The guilty plea was announced by Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

According to the plea agreement, Benavente used his cell phone to produce a video of

himself and a 15-year-old female engaging in sexually explicit conduct on or about June 23, 2013.

In July 2013, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a video file from an anonymous source depicting Benavente and a minor female engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The minor was later

identified. The same video file was found on Benavente’s cell phone pursuant to a search warrant. Benavente was arrested on a complaint on Aug. 14, 2013. On Aug. 22, 2013, a federal grand jury returned an indictment against Benavente charging him with two counts of sexual exploitation

of a child and one count of attempted sexual exploitation of a child.

Benavente faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years and a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison. Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, U.S. District Court of the CNMI, scheduled sentencing for Sept.

10, 2014, at 10am.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. For more information about Project Safe Childhood,

visit www.justice.gov/psc.

Limtiaco acknowledged and commended the hard work and investigative efforts of the FBI, and the assistance of the CNMI Department of Public Safety. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Rami S. Badawy and Ross K. Naughton. **(USAO)**

Article 12 discussion series to re-air

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be re- airing its three-part series titled “Article 12: Landownership in the Northern Mariana Islands” this week on KSPN Channel 2.

Moderated by attorney Robert T. Torres, the three-part series is intended to provide an informed and objective presentation of facts and a variety of viewpoints relating to land alienation in the CNMI.

Part 1, “The Foundation,” will air today, Feb. 17, and features Vicente N. Santos and Pedro A. Tenorio. “The Foundation” looks at the history of the provision that limits landownership in the CNMI to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

Part 2, “Today’s Perspective,” will air on Tuesday, Feb. 18, and will feature Lorenzo DLG Cabrera, Rep. George N. Camacho, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex A. Sablan. “Today’s Perspective” will look at the impacts of Article 12 today.

Part 3, “The Future,” will air on Wednesday, Feb. 19, and will feature Vincent J. Seman, Carolyn P. Hosono, and House Vice Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz. Part three of the series looks at the future of Ar-

tle 12 and will air on KSPN Channel 2 at 6:30pm on Jan. 20, 21, and 22, 2014.

All three programs will start at 6:30pm immediately following KSPN 2 News.

Although there is no way to cover all of the complexities of Article 12 in a three-hour program, the council said this series provides basic information that will hopefully encourage viewers to discuss and consider this important topic with their families, friends, and colleagues. It is intended for anyone wishing to learn more about the history, effects, and possible future of Article 12.

The series was made possible by a “We the People” grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, contact Humanities Council staff at 235-4785. **(Mark Rabago)**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mount Carmel School’s Journalism Club premiered last week a video broadcast news program about the institution and its alumni, called “Knightly News.”

The inaugural episode was shown at a student assembly of 7th through 12th grade students and has also been posted on the show’s YouTube channel. To simulate a television news broadcast, the inaugural episode also included commercials like the school’s “What is a Knight” video promo and commercials from the school’s Theatre Club.

Anchored by Journalism Club editor-in-chief and *Saipan Tribune* correspondent Thomas Manglona II and guest anchor Jillian Angeline from KSPN2 News, the inaugural episode focused on the school’s celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

News segments included stories about the 2014 Teacher of

the Year and Parents of the Year, a Class of 2003 AlumKnight scholarship award, the renaming of Hagoi Road to Knight Street, a sports roundup, and sights and sounds from the Night with the Knights AlumKnight fundraising banquet.

Students’ response to the show was enthusiastic.

“I really liked it. I thought it was really cool the way it was put together and how they brought in a real TV reporter. Also, because we can’t make it to all the school events, this will help us know what’s going on,” said senior Ashley Ayuyu.

Keiko Yamagata, Journalism Club adviser and school business manager, is very proud of the club’s work. “The school community is proud of the Journalism Club’s successful debut of Knight News. The club members worked diligently to research, interview, develop the script, film, and edit. It was their initiative to transition into

broadcast journalism and we congratulate them for reaching another milestone,” she said.

“Knightly News” editor and student filmmaker Miguel Dandan appreciated the challenge of piecing together the many parts of the show into one professional looking episode.

“It was challenging but fun. Especially since this was our

first episode, we kept brainstorming and changing, not sure of what template to follow, but in the end, we made it work. Overall, this was a really good experience,” he said.

The Journalism Club plans to produce Knightly News on a bi-weekly basis, with in-school screenings as well as posting episodes on its YouTube channel.



NOTICE OF MEETING NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS’ REGULAR MEETING

Date: Friday, February 21, 2014
Time: 1:30p.m
Place: BOR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

- I. Call Meeting to Order (1:30p.m – 1:40p.m)**
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
 - c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
 - 1. October 14, 2013 and Continued October 15, 2013 Regular Meeting **(Action Item)**
 - 2. December 06, 2013 Continued December 16 & 17, 2013 Regular Meeting **(Action Item)**
 - 3. January 17, 2014 Regular Meeting **(Action Item)**
- II. Public Comment Period:** Individuals may orally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. (1:40p.m – 1:50p.m)
- III. Reports and Action from Standing Committees (1:50p.m – 2:50p.m)**
 - a. Program Committee Report
 - b. Fiscal Committee Report
 - c. Personnel Committee Report
- IV. Old Business (2:50p.m – 3:15p.m)**
 - a. Board Annual Evaluation
- V. New Business (3:15p.m – 3:40p.m)**
 - a. Board Policies for Consideration (First Reading)
 - 1. Board Policy No. 2004 – College Surveys **(Action Item)**
 - 2. Board Policy No. 3006 - Articulation **(Action Item)**
 - 3. Board Policy No. 7012 – Fees and Refunds **(Action Item)**
 - 4. Board Policy No. 7013 – Student Activity Fees **(Action Item)**
 - b. NMC 2015-2020 Strategic Plan **(Action Item)**
- VI. NMC Executive Reports (3:40p.m – 4:00p.m)**
 - a. President’s Report
 - 1. WASC Accreditation Update
 - 2. Chief Financial Officer Report
- VII. Legislative Updates (4:00p.m – 4:10p.m)**
- VIII. Board Meeting Assessment (4:10p.m – 4:20p.m)**
- IX. Executive Session** (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- X. Upcoming Board Activities (4:20p.m – 4:25p.m)**
 - 1. Schedule Next Regular Meeting
Tentative Dates: March 28, 2014
 - 2. Annual Board Meeting Calendar
- XI. Adjournment (4:30p.m)**

/s/ Frank M. Rabauliman Date: February 05, 2014
BOR Chairperson

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**BANKPACIFIC, LTD., : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 13-0238**

-v- :

**MATTHEW A. OOKA and RITA M. :
OOKA, :
Defendants. :**

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff’s attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated January 23, 2014 by order of the Court:

/s/Clerk of Court

TO: RAMON M. SAKISAT and the ESTATE of FRANCISCA T. SAKISAT:

You are in default in your Promissory Note date October 9, 1985, secured by a Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Mariana Islands Housing Authority, now known as the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

- (a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. 005 I 523, situated in Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, containing an area of 748 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey’s official Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
- (b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: October 9, 1985; \$42,000.00
- (c) Amount due for principal: \$8,308.24 as of Feb. 1, 2014
- (d) Amount due for interest: \$23,170.34 as of Feb. 1, 2014
- (e) Daily accruing interest: \$6.35
- (f) Late charges -0-

If the principal, interest, and late charges \$31,478.58 as of February 1, 2014 plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney’s fee, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for the purpose.

Ti un komle I kontratan debimu (Promissory Note)ni un fitma gi Oktubre dia 9, 1985, ni afabobot I Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ma aseguraa I tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega I empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Mariana Islands Housing Authority, pagu ma tungo kumu Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

- (a) i deskripsion tano ni ma empeñen (mortgaged):

Sito numeru 005 I 523, ni gaigi Saipan, Note Marianas ni ha konsiste un aria 748 quadro metro, mas pat menus, ni anok gi Cadastral Plat numeru 2084/82, i orihinat ni ma rehistra gi Land Registry kumu document numeru 14232 gi Mayo dia 14, 1982, guihi I deskripsion ni ma incorporate guini ginen I infotmasion.
- (b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepena: Oktubre dia 9, 1985; \$42,000.00
- (c) Kantida un debi para principat: \$8,308.24 asta ki Febrero 1, 2014
- (d) Kantida un debi para intereses: \$23,170.34 asta ki Febrero 1, 2014
- (e) Interes kada dia: \$6.35
- (f) Apas pot atrasao (late charges): -0-

Yan ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan I resanable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di I fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi I propriadat tano’mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias despues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-ña pot I apudera sino komo I pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este I trenta (30) dias siklo man infototma hao pot I apudera sino komo I pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot I dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi I kopia pot este na de’unta. Anai in resibe I katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, , bai in nai’I hao I na’an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na’kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Masecha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chági mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

Su Seguro Servidor,
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

Docomo justifies hike in cable rates

Docomo Pacific said it had no choice but to implement a \$2-increase in its basic cable rate—from \$34.95 to \$36.95—last Feb. 1 because national cable networks have also recently hiked licensing fees.

“These licensing fees increase every year and we have been absorbing the ever increasing programming costs from our suppliers in an effort to keep cable TV bills at a minimum. As a result of the most recent increase, we found it necessary to adjust the basic cable TV rate,” Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Unfortunately, since the rate hike is due to an increase in licensing fees, local cable subscribers will not enjoy additional channels on their basic cable service.

“Relative to service, we continue to strive to provide the best customer and product service to our subscribers,” Nelson assured.

He pointed out that the increase was not a last-minute decision and its clients were informed months in advance about the hike in its charges.

“A letter dated Dec. 26, 2013 from our CEO, Jay Shedd, was sent to all CNMI cable TV subscribers notifying them that the rate increase was forthcoming effective Feb. 1st. So, this is not a last-minute rate increase. We gave our subscribers advance notice so they can make any ad-

justments necessary in order to keep their subscription active.”

Last Jan. 20, House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero asked the Public Utilities Commission to review Docomo Pacific’s \$2 rate increase per basic cable television service

customer effective Feb. 1.

Deleon Guerrero said there is no indication that PUC has approved this rate increase pursuant to law.

In May last year, Docomo Pacific completed its \$129.8-million acquisition of MCV Broadband. That was after Japan-based NTT Docomo received approval

from federal regulators to push through with the deal.

MCV Broadband is a supplier of cable television, telephony, and high speed Internet services in Commonwealth and Guam. Before Docomo Pacific’s acquisition, it was owned by private equity firm Seaport Capital. *(Mark Rabago)*

Military training on Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 17 – 19, from 9am to 6pm

■ Feb. 20 and 21, from 8am to 7pm

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots,

and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense

because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. *(PR)*

CHILDREN’S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Milk teeth are there for a reason

By **FLORIDA MPAYAMAGURU**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I have often heard parents on dental appointments tell me, when their children have cavities that, “It does not matter, they’re milk teeth, right?” Wrong! The milk teeth/baby teeth are there for a reason. Most children are not done losing their teeth until they are almost 10-12 years of age. The reason we want baby teeth to stay healthy and in their mouth until they are ready to fall out is that (1) They hold the space for the grown up teeth to come in properly and, (2) It helps the child to be able to chew properly.

In order to make this happen, we recommend that parents help their children brush until they are at least 7 years old.

We say this because most small children are not able to brush properly and get to all the teeth in the back like they should.

We recommend that you bring your child in when they get their first baby teeth: (1) so that we can check and make sure that everything is doing OK, (2) to give the dental professionals a chance to advise the parents on proper homecare, (3) and to get the child used to coming to the dentist.

The first thing that parents should do is to make sure not to put their children down for a nap or bedtime with a bottle or Sippy cup of milk or juice. Milk, even though it is good for them, has natural sugars in it that can rot the teeth very quickly. Children should have their three regular meals a day, and if they need to have a snack, give

them fruits or vegetables and water to drink. Avoid sugary snacks, chips, juices, and candy.

Children should have regular checkups at least every six months by a dentist and hygienist to help catch cavities early and train your children how to take care of their teeth. Remember parents, you are in control of your children’s oral health. If you give them healthy foods and snacks, along with drinking more water rather than juices, you will be saving yourself and your child a lot of visits to the dentist, and in the end more money in your pocket that you would be spending to get the teeth fixed.

Florida Mpayamaguru is a registered dental hygienist at the Seventh Day Adventist Dental Clinic.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 4th birthday to our princess, Aaliyah Robyn. We love you so much! Greetings come from Mommy, Papa, and Kuyas.



The House of Representatives

18TH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Garapan Elementary School, Cafeteria.

AGENDA

House Joint Resolution 18-14: Requesting that the Honorable Governor Eloy S. Inos oppose any and all proposed military use of Pagan and oppose any increase military activities in the Northern Islands.

Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing. Oral testimony may be presented during the public hearing.

/s/ **Rep. Trenton B. Conner**
Chairman, Federal and Foreign Affairs



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos.: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 2350-7147
Email Address: administration@cda.gov.mp
Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

February 17, 2014

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014 AT 1:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - a. Roll Call
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Borrower’s Request
- V. Real Estate Broker
- VI. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. *(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)*

/s/ **TOM GLENN A. QUITUGUA**
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors



February 17, 2006

‘Govt owes hospital \$62M’

The CNMI government itself is responsible for the bulk of debts owed the Commonwealth Health Center, acting Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez told a Senate committee yesterday. Villagomez said in a confirmation hearing at the Senate that government-run programs have amassed a \$62-million debt to the Commonwealth’s only hospital over the past six years. Medicaid accounts for more than half of the hospital’s receivables from the government, with a debt amounting to \$32 million. The NMI Retirement Fund owes the Commonwealth Health Center \$28 million, while the remaining \$2 million are collectible from other government entities.

Wanna travel? MPLA has per diem rate for you

The Marianas Public Lands Authority has established per diem rates not only for U.S. jurisdictions and Asian countries with which the Commonwealth has business relations, but also for such far-flung destinations as Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. Adopted by the board of directors on Sept. 6, 2005, MPLA’s travel policy sets specific per diem rates for official trips to 198 destinations throughout the world. The list of destinations includes various cities in the U.S. mainland and territories, Japan, Korea, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific island nations.

February 17, 2007

Schoolchildren to write stories on Spanish influence in NMI

At least 22 schoolchildren are currently taking part in a series of lectures and workshop regarding Spain’s influences to Chamorros in the CNMI for an upcoming book about the topic. Pacific Star Center for Young Writers, Inc. director Katharyn Tuten-Pucket is now leading the workshop in collaboration with the NMI Council for the Humanities. Tuten-Pucket started the workshop with 22 four to six grade students of Whispering Palms School attending last week and held its second week of session at the Maturana House of Prayer Youth Center facilities up on Navy Hill. Tuten-Pucket divided the participants into two batches for two separate sessions every Tuesday and Thursday. She said the five-week workshop would involve volunteers from government and learning institutions that could assist in providing information on the history of the Mariana Islands, during the Spanish regime in particular.

DPH conducts wound care training on Tinian

The Commonwealth Health Center Physical Therapy Department spent Valentine’s Day on Tinian transferring knowledge on proper wound care to nurses and medical staff assigned on the island. The “Train the Trainer” program workshop was held last Tuesday and Wednesday. The Saipan Diabetes Prevention & Control Program sent three medical staff members from its Physical Therapy Department to Tinian. Lead instructor Dana McFadden said colleagues Nicole LeBlanc and Pam Carhill also assisted during the training.

February 17, 2008

NMC told to submit special report

The Western Association of Schools & Colleges’ Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges is asking the Northern Marianas College to submit a “special report” by March 15, 2008, showing resolution of the findings reported in the institution’s most recent audit for FY 2006. The March 15 report should provide the accrediting commission with information about what steps the college has taken to address each of the findings of the FY 2006 audit. The college should inform the commission of any increases in staffing assigned to business services, as well as changes to procedures in business operations.

DPS honors bomb disposal chief

The Department of Public Safety honored Friday the outgoing chief of the U.S. Navy’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marianas-Guam, a team that was responsible for the safe disposal of over 10,000 explosive items found in the CNMI. DPS Commissioner Rebecca M. Warfield handed a certificate of appreciation to Lt. Troy Lawson, the officer-in-charge of EOD Marianas-Guam. Lawson will be reassigned to Miami, Florida, and will no longer be chief of EOD in the Marianas region. Lawson served as officer-in-charge of EOD Detachment Marianas since December 2006.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC RFP 14-001

Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect and evaluate scientific data to better determine the potential for development of geothermal energy on Saipan. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently steep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect and evaluate extensive data will require the successful Proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on January 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-001 Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 10, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-002 (Rev.1)

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$80.00 for one IFB package set. Registrants of CUC-IFB-14-002 are exempted from paying the required fee. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 10, 2014** to be considered.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-002(Rev.1), Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 28, 2014** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 12, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, Engineer, CUC Power Division via email address alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE IFB14-GOV-059



Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Agag Water System Well Field Isolation Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Install approximately 6,255 lineal feet of 4", and 8" PVC waterline with appurtenant valves, fittings, flow meter, flush hydrants, air relief valves, and pressure reducing valves.
- Remove and dispose existing pipes at the Agag Booster Station.
- Various connections works at five (5) locations.
- Connect existing service laterals and water meters.
- Pressure testing and chlorination of new waterlines.
- Restore asphalt paving.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of \$500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 17, 2014** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., on February 28, 2014**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **February 27, 2014**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB14-GOV-059**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **March 19, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **March 19, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 19, 2014**, and must be received no later than **March 28, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 28, 2014**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 19, 2014**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Eloy S. Inos
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-009

Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop CUC's Integrated Resource Plan, which is a long-range plan that will select the most cost-effective mix of energy resources, both supply-side and demand-side, following a review of commercially available base load and renewable energy alternatives. This project will also include the design and development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for total system power supply, the design and implementation of financial models to be used for comparing both energy supply and renewable power integration options, along with Independent Evaluator (IE) services to develop and administer third-party, technical and financial review of received energy supply proposals, for the purposes of advising the CUC during the energy supply proposal selection process.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on **January 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**, at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-009, Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 26, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 12, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

End epidemic of military sexual assault

The way sexual assaults are handled in the military is a disaster—even the top brass concede this point. The Associated Press provided more evidence of that this week, adding support to the bipartisan push in the Senate to take decisions about prosecuting serious crimes, including rape, outside the chain of command.

The military says it is making progress, but it is far too slow. It is long past time for serious reforms.

The AP obtained documents on hundreds of cases in Japan, the largest overseas U.S. military installation, from 2005 to 2013. The results were appalling: Only a third of convicted service members served time for their crimes, part of a system, as the AP put it, of “random and inconsistent punishment.” Over that period, victims increasingly refused to cooperate with investigators or recanted their stories, widely viewed as a sign they lacked confidence they would be treated fairly.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., has attracted a bipartisan group of 53 supporters—including Sens. Rand Paul and Barbara Boxer—for her bill to give decision-making authority in these cases to experienced military prosecutors instead of officers in the chain of command. In a more reasonable world, that would be enough, but she faces a threshold of 60 votes in the Senate because of the way filibuster rules are being abused. The bill, the Military Justice Improvement Act, may come up for a vote this week.

Top military leaders oppose it, claiming it would undermine the authority of commanding officers. But the existing system is obviously a failure; experts believe there may be about 19,000 sexual assaults in the military every year, Gillibrand said recently, but only about 3,000 are reported—and there are multiple examples of those cases being handled terribly. That is what’s undermining the authority of the military chain of command.

The existing system gives officers an impossible task. A rape conviction for someone under their command reflects poorly on their leadership. And how are they supposed to judge fairly if a top-performing soldier or Marine is accused, perhaps by someone who isn’t as stellar?

The reforms Gillibrand is seeking will increase the confidence of victims that their cases will be handled fairly, which should increase reporting. They should also increase the number of convictions and the seriousness of the punishment, which will surely be a deterrent that brings down the number of sexual assaults—the ultimate goal.

Military brass and some senators say they’re making progress and that their incremental reforms should be allowed time to work. But they’ve been saying that for decades—remember Tailhook? It’s time for Congress to step in and require major changes in how the military handles sexual assault.

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Fix the post office, help the poor and nail a vulture

To say that turning post offices into banking centers is a good idea would be wrong. No, this is a spectacular idea. Here’s the U.S. Postal Service, forever on the verge of bankruptcy. It has threatened to close post office branches and stop Saturday delivery. The price of a first-class stamp just went up 3 cents to 49 cents. And so forth.

Last year it cut its operating losses to \$5 billion; believe it or not, that’s good. The USPS makes its own money, but answers to Congress anyway, and Congress says it must fund its pension liabilities 75 years into the future; last year that cost \$5.6 billion.

If post offices offered basic banking services, the postal service could easily scrape off 10 percent of the \$89 billion spent on “alternative financial services” each year.

That money is spent largely by the 68 million American adults who don’t have bank accounts. They pay their bills with cash or money orders. The average unbanked household spends \$2,412 a year on alternative financial services, often falling prey to so-called payday lenders.

The average payday loan is for \$375. It carries an average effective annual interest rate of 391 percent. Most are paid back over 4½ months, costing \$520 on top of the principal. The post office could make money by charging 28 percent interest, even giving the customer an extra month to pay. The \$375 loan would cost only \$48 in fees and interest.

Now it might be argued that turning the post office into banking centers would be unfair to payday lenders, title lenders, rent-to-own centers and pawnshops. The proper response to that is, “What goes around, comes around.”

This spectacular idea has been kicked around by policy wonks for years; indeed, until 1967 the postal service operated a kind of savings bank. But on Jan. 27, the big idea received a ringing endorsement in a white paper issued by David C. Williams, the postal service’s inspector general.

Mr. Williams’ proposal was quickly seconded by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. In an article in the Huffington Post, she noted that underbanked households spend about the same on predatory interest rates and fees as they do on food.

“If the Postal Service offered basic banking services—nothing fancy, just basic bill paying, check cashing and small dollar loans—then it could provide affordable financial services for underserved families, and, at the same time, shore up its own financial footing.”

Another positive: The postal service owns or leases a lot of real estate—35,000 parcels. Thirty-eight percent of them are in ZIP codes where there are no commercial banks. An additional 21 percent are in ZIP codes with only one bank.

(Of course, in many of these ZIP codes, there are lots of payday loan outlets.)

By KEVIN HERRIGAN

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Kevin Herrigan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Readers may write to him at: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 900 North Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63101, or email him at kherrigan@post-dispatch.com.



So if this is such an obviously spectacular idea—and to repeat, it is—why hasn’t it been adopted?

Part of the answer is inertia. The postal service likes being the postal service, not a bank, even if it means it has to close branches and stop Saturday mail delivery. Change is hard.

Change would require modifying offices and retraining personnel, but most business would be done electronically. The system could start by selling pre-paid cards that could be used to withdraw cash or pay bills, the IG report said.

Eventually, if a customer had his paycheck loaded onto his postal card, he could become eligible for a cash loan. The report suggests a \$25 loan fee and an annual interest rate of 25 percent.

It’s obviously a better deal than a payday loan, which is why the industry would fight it to the death. If we’re lucky.

Big banks might hate it, too, even though unbanked customers are, by definition, not their customers. Payday lenders are. A study by the advocacy group National People’s Action found that in 2009, major banks provided at least \$1.5 billion in credit to payday lenders. The study found that one bank, Wells Fargo, financed 32 percent of America’s 23,000 payday loan stores.

Big banks have a lot of clout in Congress, on both sides of the aisle. “They frankly own the place,” Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., blurted on a radio talk show in 2009.

But this may be the very best part of the spectacular idea: The postal service may not need congressional approval to get into the banking services industry.

“The 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act generally prohibits the Postal Service from offering new non-postal services,” Mr. Williams’ report says. “However, given that the Postal Service is already providing money orders and other types of non-bank financial services, it could explore additional options within its existing authority.”

This would be bold, an adjective not usually associated with the postal service. But it could do an awful lot of good for an awful lot of people who today fall victim to vultures, which liberals will like. It might encourage thrift and savings, which conservatives will like. Spectacular.

Recovery or wreckovery?

Most of us have struggled to understand the spread of disorientation and high cost of inaction. Be that as it may, we cautiously pace the cost of living shooting like 4th of July fireworks in February, wondering when would it ever end.

Indeed, these are trying times, exacerbated by the lack of fully thought out policies in health premiums, utilities, pension pay and economic opportunities, among others.

We're bewildered by the muted silence at home. The lights are on but nobody's answering the door. Are they inebriated with the new alcohol spirit known as "Do-Nothings?"

Obviously, there's no leadership with vision but we do have tons of followership with B&W television. Are we ready to repeat a history of grand failure?

Or do we move the needle of political maturity forward by electing a more academically competent and professionally qualified group of policymakers? Don't we owe this to ourselves so we save ourselves from ourselves?

Our esteemed and illustrious delegate Kilili must be all smiles as retirees and employees are floored and sent reeling for survival when the new increase in health premiums increased. It robbed them substantially of nearly everything that is left in the family purse. Is it because Kilili and his staff are exempt from Obamacare?

The simple folks pine for "recovery" of sorts to ease the pain of misery in destitution. But what they've seen so far is "wreckovery," the exact opposite of the former term.

Retirees have to endure 25-percent cut in their pension. Next, their buying power with what's left in the family pocketbooks is reduced by more than 40 percent when the new price hike in health premiums takes effect upon policy renewal. This doesn't include slated power rate increases and the impending increases in the price of basic goods.

Mind-boggling what the CNMI's esteemed and illustrious Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan, Kilili, is doing to ease the heavy blows against families here from Obamacare. I suppose he's also followed Nancy Pelosi's infamous statement, "Let's pass it [Obamacare] and find out what's in it later." Well, right here and now, Obamacare has reduced the buying power of nearly 3,000 retirees sinking in the

filthy swamp of unprecedented hardship. Sayu?

'My Dear Uncle Sam'

A long time ago, I'd sit by elderly folks serenading under a shade punching sweet tuba with beer. They'd intone a song that says in part, "Uncle Sam, Uncle Sam, my dear Uncle Sam, won't you please come back to stay." I must have heard this tune more than 50 years ago.

Now, if you pace our developmental history, you'd find that Uncle Sam has marched back slowly. We messed up on immigration and so he came in and took over, including minimum wage, labor, and health. Perhaps it was intended to demonstrate that the CNMI is a government of laws, not of men. That's what a democratic republic must strive for—a government of laws!

The one area which he should take over is the Legislature. It would be a savings of nearly \$10 million and a relief as realistic policies are emplaced to fix, yes, the economy or fiscal impotence of the CNMI. Last election depicts the maturity of voters. We expect the same this election year, too.

It should do this for at least a decade while legislators take up introductory or 101 courses at NMC in English, Economics, Current Issues, Public Administration, Public Policy, Accounting, and Business Management. Imagine if these guys could engage in what's known as "educated" discussion. But then how many of them would require remedial courses?

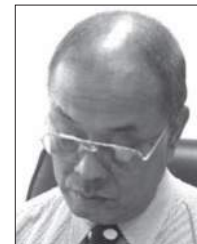
It's appalling the legislative agenda focusing on every mundane issue so far removed from the deepening economic mess at home. I mean it's humiliating we're worried sick about drying panties at the patio in houses near the hotel area, cock-fights, village signs, and other provincial issues. Isn't it still the economy, stupid?

This behavior reminds me of a joke about a man who ran into the bus and sat next to a fully clad lady. The rich woman looked down and saw only one shoe. Said she, "I think you forgot the other pair." Said the man, "No, I found this and decided to wear it". A' Saina! Thanks Uncle Sam, at least your presence has started sinking in the ultimate message that the greater problem has been and continues to be wearing a shoe we've found

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



somewhere else.

More trouble with Obamacare

Your hospital Medicare admittance has just changed under Obamacare. You must be admitted by your primary physician in order for Medicare to pay for it! If an emergency room doctor admits you it is treated as outpatient care where hospital costs are not covered. This is only the tip of the iceberg for Obamacare. Just wait to see what happen in this year and 2014!

YOU ARE NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS... At age 76 when you might need it most, you are not eligible for cancer treatment* See page 272 What Nancy Pelosi didn't want us to know until after the healthcare bill was passed. Remember she said, "We have to pass the bill so that we can see what's in it." Well, here it is.

Judge Kithil of Marble Falls, TX highlighted the most egregious pages of HB 3200. Judge Kithil wrote:

** Page 50/Section 152: The bill will provide insurance to all non-U.S. residents, even if they are here illegally.

** Page 58 & 59: The government will have real-time access to an individual's bank account and will have the authority to make electronic fund transfers from those accounts.

** Page 425, line 4-12: The government mandates advance-care planning consultations. Those on Social Security will be required to attend an "end-of-life planning" seminar every five years.

** Page 429, line 13-25: The government will specify which doctors can write an end-of-life order.

HAD ENOUGH? Finally, it is specifically stated that this bill will not apply to members of Congress.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Herbs, drugs, politics, fools, and foolishness

First, I want to thank my critic, Francisco R. Agulto, for his foolish statements that allow me to educate the public more on the marijuana phenomenon.

Marijuana was wrongfully classified as a drug because marijuana is really an herb/flower. The problem has been politics and the confusion between the substances of herbs and drugs as both have chemical compositions. What separates drugs from herbs is that drugs are medically defined as a substance of which something is made (by man) that is used as a medicine. Just because marijuana has the THC substance does not make it a drug in its natural state as every physical thing on earth is composed of some form of substance. The coca leaves, the poppies and even betel nut when compared to marijuana in their natural state should never be classified in the same category as man-made drugs like we see in the pharmacy and with street drugs like ice, cocaine, and heroin. It is that simple.

Marijuana is no worse than coca leaves, poppies and betel nut in their natural state and believe it or not, the founders of America's political philosophy based their theory on mankind living in a state of nature and in a state of nature people would certainly be free to use marijuana. We are living with the existence of marijuana anyway and it can never be eradicated so the best mankind can ever do is to learn how to live with marijuana, instead of trying to stop something that grows freely in the ground. It is like trying to stop the powers of nature, which even fools know is impossible.

Politicians have traditionally been against legalized marijuana because the majority of modern society was against it but, as shown in CNN/ORC findings and numbers from General Social Survey polling, support for legalizing marijuana has steadily soared over the past quarter century, from 16 percent in 1987 to 26 percent in

1996, 34 percent in 2002, and 43 percent two years ago and now the support for legalizing marijuana has reached the level of being the majority of Americans at 55 percent.

Voters, the stock prices for cannabis companies have soared and a feeding frenzy is developing from the birth of a new industry. The New York City-based publication *High Times* announced a new private equity fund to "raise \$100 million to invest in cannabis-related businesses," an industry estimated to already be generating revenues in the billions of dollars. We can be the first island group to ride this economic wave of legal marijuana but our leaders seem to only think of casinos and borrowing more money to put us in more debt when they should be creating new sources of revenues. They give us e-casinos and are still pushing for more casinos and the need to still borrow money. Wake up people and *legalize it*, we can fix it ourselves and stop the political foolishness.

Thanks for asking me to keep talking, Francisco, and I'm glad to know that this controversy fascinates your mind because controversy has led the way to all the improvements and changes, good or bad, in mankind's evolution. So controversy can really be a good thing, putting me in good company with visionary people like the ancient philosophers, America's founders and the civil and human rights activists of today. I'm just praying this won't be another I told you so!

P.S.: The people can end this casino foolishness of our leaders and create one law that has already proven to boost the tourism industry and bring in hundreds of millions. It is truly disappointing to see a governor who was never elected by the people and a senator who wants to be lieutenant governor continue to disrespect the people's "no" decision on casinos. Now the Fund and the 25 percent are political hostages for re-election but I'm sure the people are not

fools to believe casinos, e-casino room(s) and a loan is going to be our economic solution. It is truly time for the people to take matters into their own hands by signing and passing the LEGALIZE-IT Initiative that is going around. There are literally billions in new revenues to be made with the legalization of marijuana. UPDATE: I keep telling readers the CNMI will not be alone in this race to capitalize on national changes in the laws governing marijuana as states are lining up and a letter, signed and sent by federal legislators Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014, states that marijuana's current status "makes no sense," and requests that President Obama "instruct Attorney General Holder to delist or classify marijuana in a more appropriate way." Eighteen Members of Congress joined together in calling on President Obama to use his authority to reclassify marijuana from its current position as a dangerous drug, alongside heroin and LSD, with no medical value. A letter, signed by Rep. Blumenauer, the congressional letter sent to President Obama Wednesday was co-signed by Reps. Steve Cohen (D-TN), Sam Farr (D-CA), Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ), Mike Honda (D-CA), Jared Huffman (D-CA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), James McGovern (D-MA), James Moran (D-VA), Beto O'Rourke (D-TX), Jared Polis (D-CO), Mike Quigley (D-IL), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Eric Swalwell (D-CA), and Peter Welch (D-VT).

Ambrose M Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

Good luck!

Now that the governor has selected the Tan Holdings & Sunshine 100 as the winning bidder to develop the two Marpi beach front properties, it's time for the residents of Saipan to rally behind the companies so that their proposed development will come to fruition so residents will have a new place to patronize and enjoy the services to be provided. Also, our unemployed residents can now avail of employment opportunities the companies have to offer. Other benefits that will be realized are rental income for the Department of Public Lands as well as tax revenues from gross receipts and income taxes from employees. Most important is the added new accommodations and attraction for our guests and visitors from our Asian tourist markets.

To Tan Holdings & Sunshine 100, good luck and many more success for your development and operations of the new hotel/resort in Marpi.

Vicente M. Sablan

Kagman III, Saipan

Shame, shame on you Hopwood parents

My kids graduated from Hopwood in the mid-'80s so I attended last night's HPTA meeting out of nostalgia. I met some dedicated and energetic teachers, the principal Mr. Barcinas, some talented students and some involved parents. Thirty-eight parents to be exact. Shame on you, Hopwood parents! Over 1,200 of your kids attend Hopwood and only 38 of you parents love and care enough for your kids to spend one-and-a-half hours talking to teachers and administrators, discussing student goals and projects and inputting your thoughts on how to better prepare your kids for the future. Shame, shame on you that

didn't show up. It's time to force you to attend PTA meetings at all schools. Legislature, make it mandatory that parents attend PTA meetings. Any parent not attending should have to accompany the student to school for a conference before the student is let back in. Now, I could be wrong and maybe, just maybe, those 38 parents each have 32 kids in Hopwood, in which case I apologize for my harangue.






Gary Dubrall

Chalan Piao, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 75
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80

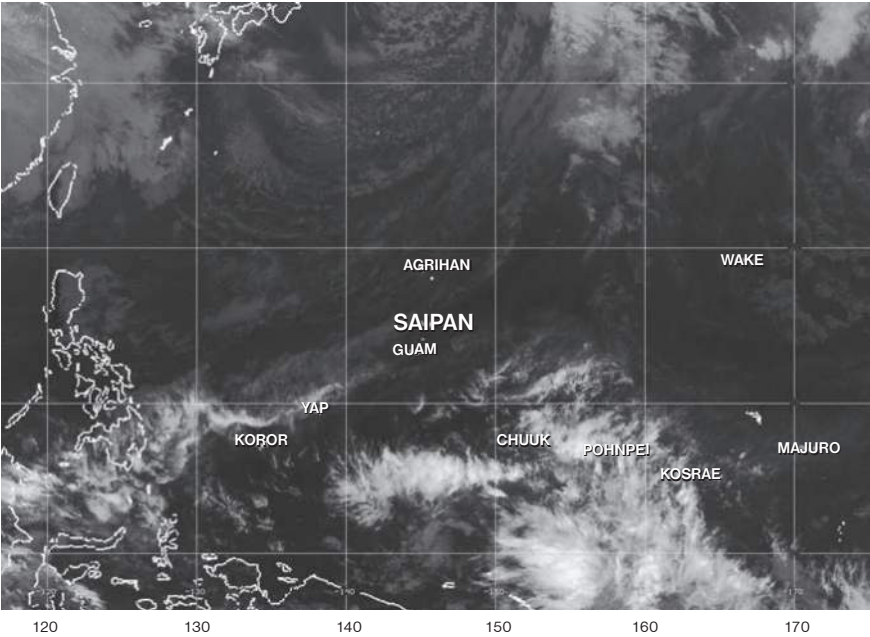
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 68
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 25
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 55
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 76 ▼ 70
London	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 43
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 58
Miami	Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 68
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 29 ▼ 26
Osaka	Showers	▲ 41 ▼ 40
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 42
Pusan	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 36
Rome	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 48
Salem	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 41
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 50
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 37 ▼ 27
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 43 ▼ 36
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 37 ▼ 31

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:09 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends from near 25N153E to 19N145E to beyond 130E at 15N. Scattered showers are present northwest of the Marianas and northwest of the front to beyond 25N. A shear line stretches from near 19N150E through the Mariana Islands at 16N146E to 12N140E to 8N129E. Scattered showers are present along and up to 225 miles northwest of the shear line. A near equatorial-trough extends eastward from 2N130E to a circulation located southwest of Palau near 2N132E to a second circulation south of Chuuk near 4N154E to to end near EQ163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms could be found between 2N and 6N from 141E to 150E and over Chuuk and Pohnpei states between the equator and 10N from 150E to 163E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Wednesday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:09 PM	7:47 AM
Tuesday	8:58 PM	8:26 AM
Wednesday	9:49 PM	9:06 AM
Thursday	10:41 PM	9:49 AM
Friday	11:36 PM	10:34 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 170	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Hazardous materials removed from grounded ship

APRA HARBOR, Guam—The U.S. Navy, in partnership with other federal and local agencies, removed heavy oil, diesel fuel, and batteries from the grounded Japanese commercial fishing vessel *Daiki Maru 7* in outer Apra Harbor yesterday, Feb. 16.

Approximately 100 gallons of lubrication oil, 50 gallons of diesel fuel, 20 gallons of hydraulic oil and multiple marine batteries were safely removed, significantly lowering the amount of major hazardous materials on board the grounded vessel. Divers also assessed the condition of the fiberglass diesel fuel tanks and determined that about 40 percent of the total capacity of diesel fuel potentially remains on board. Environmental assessment teams on the shore determined that no sheen or residue has been found on the beaches near the vessel.

Throughout the day teams on shore loaded piles of debris onto backpacks and hiked the materials off the beach via the Spanish Steps trail.

"The on-site team reached an important milestone today by safely removing the majority of the heavy oils and other hazardous materials off the vessel" said Dennis Siler, Naval Base Guam Operations Manager. "Given the close proximity to a very environmentally sensitive area, today's operations ensure the materials that could do significant damage are out of the picture and allow us to focus on the less hazardous diesel fuel and the salvage of the vessel."



Divers haul equipment to remove hazardous material from the grounded commercial fishing vessel *Daiki Maru 7*, which ran aground in Apra Harbor Feb. 13. The U.S. Navy has stood up a unified command and is taking proactive measures to mitigate damage to the environment.

LT. MATT KNIGHT

The Navy and all partners in the unified command are taking all the necessary steps to address the situation and ensure the protection of the environment. The unified command maintains a top priority of assessing, planning for, and removing hazardous materi-

als from the vessel to mitigate damage to the environment.

The unified command consists of representatives from Naval Base Guam, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, and the responsible party. Other

agencies that have been involved in all aspects of planning from the standup include Joint Region Marianas Operations, Naval Facilities Command Environmental personnel, the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, Guam Fish

and Wildlife Service, Cabras Marine and Osroco.

"As soon as we heard the news of the grounding, an environmental assessment team went out there to check for any possible damage that may have occurred to the reef or the

sea turtles," said Anne Brooke, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas conservation program manager. "This is a joint effort by a host of agencies. We train for this kind of thing and are very proficient at this." (PR)

10 fishermen rescued from sinking vessel

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Sailors from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 conducted a search and rescue operation and rescued 10 fishermen from a sinking commercial fishing vessel that ran aground in Apra Harbor near the Spanish Steps on Feb. 13 at approximately 6pm.

"Through the efforts of HSC-25 and the U.S. Coast Guard, we were able to successfully meet our first priority, which was to rescue the crewmembers," said Capt. Mike Ward, commanding officer of Naval Base Guam. "Now we are focusing our attention on environmental assessment and vessel salvage efforts and we will be partnering with U.S. Coast

Guard, Guam EPA, NOAA and the responsible party."

HSC-25 received a request for support from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam at approximately 5:30pm and two Navy MH-60S Seahawk helicopters were diverted from a training operation. The fishermen were rescued from the waters just inside the mouth of Apra Harbor. They were transported to Naval Hospital Guam for evaluation and later released.

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard monitored the vessel throughout the night to ensure the safety of all vessels transiting through the mouth of the harbor.

HSC-25 is the Navy's only forward-deployed MH-60S

expeditionary squadron that maintains a 24-hour search and rescue and medical evacuation alert posture, directly supporting the U.S. Coast Guard and Joint Region Marianas. (PR)

Environmental assessment teams from Guam Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas conduct site assessments of the beach at Spanish Steps in Apra Harbor, Guam Feb. 15. The team will assess if any damage to coral reefs and sea turtle nests occurred as a result of the grounding of the commercial fishing vessel *Daiki Maru 7*, which ran aground in Apra Harbor Feb. 13.

MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS TIMOTHY WILSON



Saipan forum to explore opportunities to build soil health

HONOLULU—Farmers, ranchers, researchers, agricultural business operators and conservationists are invited to participate in a forum on cover crops and soil health, hosted by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Guam, Pohnpei, and Saipan.

These local sessions are one

of more than 225 forums taking place throughout the country in concert with the National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health in Omaha, Nebraska, sponsored by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

In addition to providing a venue to discuss local cover crop and soil health opportunities, benefits

and barriers, the forums in Guam, Pohnpei, and Saipan will feature video clips of four leading cover crop and soil health farmers.

NRCS acting director Christine Clarke said, "The local-level forums will provide NRCS and its conservation partners and stakeholders a platform to more fully organize and enable

local soil health efforts at the grassroots level."

"This is an excellent opportunity for participants to discuss how to build soil health, improve yields, curb erosion, manage pests and build resilience in farming systems in the islands—and to assess opportunities for, or barriers to, the

broader adoption of soil health management systems," she said.

The CNMI forum will be held in the NRCS Saipan field office conference room, Beach Road-DY Bldg., on Feb. 19, 2014, from 8am until about 10am.

Dr. Bob Gavenda, NRCS soil scientist based in Guam, will be leading the forum and can assist the attendees with cover crop and other soil health questions and concerns.

All NRCS partners and the general public are invited to attend but space is limited to approximately 20-25 participants on a first-come, first-served registration.

To participate in the free local forum, contact the NRCS office at DY Building, Beach Road, South Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950. Contact NRCS at (670) 233-3415, Monday through Friday, from 8am to 5pm. (NRCS)

10th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

Photos by JAYSON CAMACHO



Tinian High School JROTC shows off their skills in the armed drill.



Visitors from Guam pose in front of the IT&E booth.



Little Brayden watches as his hermit crab runs to the finish line to win first place.



Dancers from St. Joseph Catholic School wow the crowd with their cute umbrella dance.



Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, second from left, poses with his chief of staff, Don Farrell, right, and visiting military officials.



Members of the Tinian community smiles for the *Saipan Tribune* after watching the hot pepper eating contest.



Female hot pepper eating contestants line up after emcee LJ Castro explains the rules.



Hamburger Pikalicious contestants drink plenty of water to cool down the hot pepper from the hamburger.



Saipan Dance and Music Studio performers pose in front of the stage to wait their turn.



Participants of the dragonboat race launch their boat at the start.



Vendors pose in front of their booths.



Docomo Pacific hits the island with their featured phones and raffle contest.



Natasha Fashion smiles for Saipan Tribune.



IT&E staff poses at their booth, labeled No. 1. IT&E was one of the sponsors of the Pika Festival.



Left to right, Little Ezra, Ian, and Tasi pose for Kickstart, a healthy lifestyle for their youth soccer team.

5 pct. of NMC students placed on academic suspension



IN APPRECIATION

Hopwood Junior High School's MyWAVE Club students and adviser Jenn Castro present a plaque of appreciation to MTEC board members Vicky Benavente and Rep. Edmund Villagomez for continuing to provide the club with some financial support to help them run their club effectively and efficiently. The club was recently sent to Guam to attend the MyWAVE Summit and the learning they brought back made them become a better and productive club on campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is taking a proactive approach to help its students who are struggling with their academics.

Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, disclosed Thursday last week that about 5 percent of NMC enrollees were placed on academic suspension, as of end of the fall 2013 semester. That suspension bars them from enrolling within a certain period of time.

NMC records show it had 1,171 students last fall term.

A student is placed on academic suspension when the student's term GPA (grade point average) and cumulative GPA at the end of a probationary term are below 2.0. When that occurs, the student is not allowed to enroll for classes for one semester.

Pangelinan explained that prior to re-entry after a suspension period, students are required to meet with an academic adviser or counselor to develop a remediation plan and a proposed course of study.

He said there are a variety of factors that contribute to poor academic performance, including a lack of preparedness for coursework and poor attendance.

"The college is taking extra steps to closely monitor students and instructional quality in courses with low passing rates," Pangelinan said.

NMC, he added, is also working individually with students on Tinian and Rota, for example, to coordinate institutional support for their enrollment in online courses.

Saipan Tribune was told that

NMC is taking steps to work with academically-challenged enrollees. Already, the institution provides access to academic advisers, instructors, tutors, counselors, and other support services, which are introduced to students at new student orientation sessions and reinforced both inside and outside the classroom throughout a student's enrollment.

Pangelinan disclosed that NMC also has an Early Intervention Program that helps students proactively identify strategies to improve academic performance.

Early Intervention Counselors, it was learned, reach out to students on academic probation and suspension to identify and address issues that may pose as barriers to student success.

Based on some studies, several features of the academic probation policies are quite similar across universities in the United States. Each school uses a GPA threshold of 2.0 for the first semester enrolled. At all of the schools, students are notified of their academic status before the start of their second semester and the standards they need to meet to change their status.

Most of the schools, according to some studies, also set limits on the number of courses students may elect while on academic probation. Percentage of students placed on academic suspension also varies.

For many, academic probation status following the first semester of college may serve as a short term "wake up call" to some students in that second semester performance is improved.

PSS: It's time to 'Stand up for character—down to bullying!'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI State Board of Education has endorsed Feb. 17 to 21 as Anti-Bullying Week in the Public School System, to raise awareness that bullying remains a big concern in and out of schools.

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero signed the proclamation Friday in front of hundreds of middle school students and public educators and officials, expressing hope that the weeklong celebration would help heighten public awareness about the serious issues and negative effects of bullying.

He called on all PSS stakeholders—students, teachers, parents, and staff—to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities supporting the initiative.

Although it is impossible to totally eliminate bullying in schools and community, Guerrero said that just maintaining the children's and community's awareness of its consequences is an accomplishment.

Guerrero cited the daily news in the media about various kind of violence that are often witnessed by children and youths. "They do see and read those things and we don't want them to emulate and learn from those. We need to work with them and continue to encourage them to stand up when they witness them," he said.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

PSS Pupil Transportation Department manager Jack Diaz looks at the board where students' notes about bullying are displayed Friday. The Board of Education endorsed Feb. 17-21 as Anti-Bullying Week in public schools.

This week's anti-bullying proclamation is themed: "It's time to 'Stand up for character—down to bullying!'"

Throughout the weeklong event, each public school has individual programs and ceremonies, all aiming to raise everyone's awareness on the negative impact of bullying.

Each day, an estimated 160,000 children refuse to go to school because they dread the

physical and verbal aggression of their peers, and the loneliness that comes from being excluded and made the target of rumors and cyber-bullying.

"We must safeguard schools and communities for our children. And through recognition of the serious issues that face them each day, we offer our children an environment that holds promise and security," according to the proclamation.

Anti-bullying programs are designed to help build school communities with the attributes of human decency and kindness as the foundation for a bully-free society.

At Hopwood, principal Jonas Barcinas shared with *Saipan Tribune* that students are expected to take part in programs such as skit performances and games that will all be related to how bullying can be prevented.

12 daycare staff take part in Teacheread training

The CNMI Motherread/Fatheread program hosted its very own Teacheread training session last Saturday, Feb. 8, from 7:30am to 5pm at the Herman's Modern Bakery conference room.

A total of 12 staff from daycare establishments in the CNMI participated in the whole-day event: Bright Minds' Junnie Masga and Julieta Baroro, Children's World Daycare Center's Lorna Santos and Amorjolita Borja, Tender Love Child Care's Marissa Ignacio and Emma Panlilio, Green Meadow's Maricar Deseo, Andrea Tabora, and Anita Delgado, and SmartStart's Maricel Javier, Estrella Jumilla, and Rose Limjoco.

Teacheread training facilitators Bryan Manabat and Viola Deleon Guerrero presented on topics ranging from Read Aloud Strategies and Techniques, Online Research Activities, to Storysharing Presentations.

CNMI Motherread/Fatheread extended its gratitude to the "hardworking and gracious staff" of Herman's Modern Bakery and Jimmy Ararao.

CNMI Motherread/Fatheread coordinator Beth Demapan said Teacheread training session are essential in early childhood education.

"It's not enough just to have excellent teaching materials. Early childhood education faculty need creative and results-oriented strategies for use with their students. The Teacheread training is based on a curriculum that teaches essential literacy skills for use not only in the childcare workplace, but also in future educational pursuits. Additionally, adults learn how to be reading role models for children."

CNMI Teacheread is a Motherread Program in partnership with the Northern Marianas Council for the Humanities and the Child Care Development Fund under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

For more information, contact cnmmotherread@gmail.com or call 235-7319, cell: 989-8542, and text us at 788-5785. (Mark Rabago)

Business

Higher gas prices on the way

NEW YORK (AP)—Drivers, here's the bad news: You'll be paying more for gasoline in the coming weeks.

The good news: You'll likely pay less than last year. Or the year before, or the year before that.

The price of gasoline held steady into early February, but an increase is almost inevitable this time of year. Pump prices have gone up an average 31 cents per gallon in February over the past three years. And although this year's rise might not reach the heights of years past, there are reasons for drivers in some regions—like the Northeast—to worry about a painful spike.

"We're going to get increases and they are going to be noticeable," says Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at Gasbuddy.com and the Oil Price Information Service. "We're going to get that pop relatively soon."

The price of crude oil has

risen 8 percent over the past month, to \$100 per barrel. And analysts expect fuel supplies to begin to decline as refineries dial back production to perform maintenance and make the switch to summer fuels.

Gasoline prices are already creeping higher. The nationwide average price has risen for seven days in a row to \$3.34 per gallon, the highest level since October, according to AAA, OPIS and Wright Express. California, Connecticut and New York drivers are paying an average of \$3.65 or more, the most in the lower 48 states. Montana and South Carolina drivers are paying \$3.10 or less.

But the nationwide average is not expected to quite reach its high point of last year of \$3.79 per gallon, set February 27, never mind the highs of \$3.94 in 2012 and \$3.98 in 2011. AAA predicts a peak of between \$3.55 and \$3.75 per gallon.

Gasoline prices are 8 percent

lower than last year at this time, even though crude oil prices are about the same, in part because gasoline supplies are plentiful. Refiners have kept operations humming to meet increased demand for heating oil during the frigid winter, and have produced more gasoline as a result. But the stormy weather has left cars buried under snow, where they don't use much gasoline.

Now, however, with the end of the winter in sight, refinery output is expected to slow down as refiners conduct typical seasonal maintenance. Even refiners that are up and running sometimes reduce production at this time of year. They'll soon switch to making more expensive summer gasoline that is formulated to meet clean air rules, and they don't want to be stuck with unsold winter gas.

That reduced production depletes supplies and causes gas prices to rise as the U.S. driving season approaches.

'Figure out how to satisfy US water needs'



A secret service agent looks over a farm field as President Barack Obama speaks to the media on California's drought situation Friday, Feb. 14, 2014 in Los Banos, Calif.

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—President Barack Obama drew a link between climate change and California's drought, and said the U.S. must do a better job of figuring out how to make sure everyone's water needs are satisfied.

On a tour of central California on Friday, Obama warned that weather-related disasters will only get worse.

"We can't think of this simply as a zero-sum game. It can't just be a matter of there's going to be less and less water so I'm going to grab more and more of a shrinking share of water," Obama said after touring part of a farm that is suffering under the state's worst drought in more than 100 years.

"Instead what we have to do is all come together and figure out how we all are going to make sure that agricultural needs, urban needs, industrial needs, environmental and con-

servation concerns are all addressed," he said.

Even if the U.S. takes immediate action to curb pollution, the planet will keep getting warmer for a long time to come because of greenhouse gases that already have built up, he said.

"We're going to have to stop looking at these disasters as something to wait for," Obama said, announcing more than \$160 million in federal financial aid. The sum includes \$100 million in the farm bill he signed into law last week for programs that cover the loss of livestock.

The package includes smaller aid amounts for the most extreme drought areas and to help food banks serving families affected by the water shortage. Obama also called on federal facilities in California to begin conserving water immediately.

"These actions will help, but they're just the first step," he said. "We have to be clear. A

changing climate means that weather-related disasters like droughts, wildfires, storms, floods, are potentially going to be costlier and they're going to be harsher."

The budget Obama will send Congress next month includes \$1 billion for a "climate resilience fund" to invest in research and pay for new technologies to help communities deal with climate change. The proposal is likely to face stiff opposition from lawmakers wary of new spending and divided on global warming.

Obama urged Congress to act swiftly on Democratic legislation backed by California's senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, that would pour \$300 million into emergency aid and drought-relief projects, upgrade city water systems and water conservation, and speed up environmental reviews of water projects.

Nation

MCCLATCHY-MARIST POLL:

American dream 'out of reach'

By **DAVID LIGHTMAN**
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

Dim views on getting ahead

People are very pessimistic about their chances of achieving the American dream, according to a new McClatchy-Marist poll.

• How much effort does it take to get ahead now compared to previous generations?

More effort

80%

Less effort

5

Just as much

15

• How much effort will it take for the next generation to get ahead?

More effort

78

Less effort

5

Just as much

16

• The rules to get ahead now:

Everyone plays more or less by the same rules

14

Different rules for well-connected, people with money

85

• Right now, people who work hard have:

A good chance of improving their standard of living

31

A hard time maintaining their standard of living

68

Source: McClatchy-Marist poll of 1,197 adults, Feb. 4-9, 2014; margin of error: +/-2.8 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible

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poor, and he pushes for a higher minimum wage and health care subsidies, as well as programs to help people find new skills, at the same time he pushes free trade, which some blame for an exodus of jobs to lower-paying foreign factories. Republicans propose help for businesses, hoping that would lead them to hire more and pay more.

Neither side has sold the public on a future full of economic hope.

Looking at work, Americans think by 75-22 percent that U.S. corporations make stockholders their top priority, over their employees.

Looking at their own lives, most people consider themselves middle class. Eighty-six percent of those polled identi-

fied themselves that way, with 14 percent calling themselves upper middle class, 50 percent saying middle class and 22 percent saying lower middle class.

Most think the middle class is hurt most by government policies. Fifty-five percent think the middle class is most likely to be left behind by those actions, while another 40 percent said the poor would be hurt the most.

The findings come as the nation and the federal government struggle to help the economy rebound in a robust fashion. Officially, the deep recession that began in December 2007 has been over since mid-2009, but growth has been sluggish, consumer confidence has just begun to improve and government spending has been restrained.

ACROSS THE NATION

Obama signs debt ceiling measure into law

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP)—President Barack Obama on Saturday signed separate measures into law to lift the federal debt limit and restore benefits that had been cut for younger military retirees. Obama signed the bills during a weekend golf vacation in Southern California. The debt limit measure allows the government to borrow money to pay its bills, such as Social Security benefits and federal salaries. Failure to pass the measure, which the Senate passed 67-31 earlier this week and sent to Obama for his signature, most likely would have sent the stock market into a nosedive. The Treasury Department is now free to borrow regularly through March 15, 2015, meaning lawmakers won't have to revisit the issue until a new Congress is sworn in after the November elections.

Fla. man guilty of lesser counts in music shooting

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A 47-year-old software developer was convicted Saturday of attempted murder for shooting into a carful of teenagers after an argument over what he called their "thug music," but jurors couldn't agree on the most serious charge of first-degree murder. After more than 30 hours of jury deliberations over four days, a mistrial was declared on the murder charge that Michael Dunn faced in the

fatal shooting of one of the black teens. The 12 jurors found him guilty of three counts of attempted second-degree murder and a count of firing into an occupied car. Dunn was charged with fatally shooting 17-year-old Jordan Davis, of Marietta, Ga., in 2012 after the argument over loud music coming from the SUV occupied by Davis and three friends outside a Jacksonville convenience store. Dunn, who is white, had described the music to his fiancée as "thug music." Dunn showed no emotion as the verdicts were read.

Another blast of snow makes its way into Northeast

BOSTON (AP)—Another round of snow made its way through the Northeast and into New England on Saturday, dumping another heaping of snow on a region that continues to dig out from a previous storm. New England was expected to be hit hardest by the latest blast of winter weather. The National Weather Service called for 10 to 14 inches of snow in eastern Massachusetts and parts of Rhode Island. At Boston's Logan International Airport, some airlines canceled flights ahead of Saturday night's storm and delays were expected. Eight to 10 inches was to fall in Connecticut along its Rhode Island border. At its peak, the storm was expected to dump snow at the rate of 3 inches per hour, meteorologist William Babcock.

Asia

Indon volcano brings life, death



Soldiers and rescuers carry a woman to a truck for evacuation following an eruption of Mount Kelud, in Malang, East Java, Indonesia, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014.

SIDOMULYO, Indonesia (AP)—The ash and debris that Indonesia's Mount Kelud blasted from its belly brought death and misery, and disrupted international air traffic. But for many of the millions of people cleaning up in the wake of the explosive eruption, it was also a money earner and a shot of life for their crops.

"This is a blessing of the disaster," said Imam Choiri, a farmer who was scraping up the ash from the road to use as fertilizer on his small vegetable plot a few kilometers from the crater of the rumbling mountain. Choiri said locals believe the ash helps drive away pests from crops.

The eruption of the 1,731-meter (5,680-foot)-high mountain on Java island late Thursday was one of the most dramatic to hit Indonesia in recent years, with ash falling as far as 600 kilometers (370 miles) away.

Four people, including a 97-year-old woman, were killed when the roofs of their homes caved in under the weight of ash. More than 100,000 people were evacuated to temporary shelters.

On Saturday, scientists said

Different volcano, similar result

The second volcanic incident on an Indonesian island in a matter of weeks has forced evacuations and grounded flights.

▲ Major volcanoes with eruptions since 1900



- Death toll stands at 3
- Mount Kelud last erupted in 2007; activity ramped up in the past 10 days
- 100,000 plus evacuated
- Mt. Kelud has claimed more than 15,000 lives since 1500, including about 10,000 killed in 1568

Source: ESRI, AP, USGS, BBC

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Kelud's activities were dying down, in line with its reputation as a mountain that blows its top dramatically but then quickly settles down for another 10 years or so. But authorities warned that water from its crater, along with rain, could bring deadly landslides of fresh ash and rocks down river beds into villages and valleys.

Army troops enforced a ban on people returning to houses within 10 kilometers (6 miles) of the volcano, but many peo-

ple sneaked back to check on livestock and clean up. Authorities were finding it hard to prevent people from returning, given the money farmers stand to lose by staying away, and said about 56,000 people remained in 89 shelters.

"Our cows need to be milked. If they aren't, they can get sick and die," said Marjito, who was riding on a motorbike with his wife to his village around 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the crater.

Migrants say firms force workers out of Singapore

SINGAPORE (AP)—Bapari Jakir's employers wanted to see him off the job, but the welder was heavily in debt and didn't want to go back to Bangladesh. So, he says, they encouraged him to leave—by hiring a company whose thugs held him captive in a room, holding a knife to his throat.

Singapore needs foreign workers, but it doesn't want them to overstay their welcome, and firms get fined when they do. That has created a market for "repatriation companies," which deny allegations from activists and the United States that

they use illegal tactics to expel foreign workers.

The country's wealth and continued growth rely in large part on foreign workers like Jakir, who build its skyline and maintain its top-notch infrastructure. Yet as the numbers of migrant workers soar, tales of abuse and exploitation are threatening to take some of the shine off the city-state's international reputation.

In December, migrant workers from South Asia rioted in the country's first social unrest for more than 40 years. Some activists claim that anger over work-

ing conditions might have been a factor in the riots, which shocked a nation long seen as an island of stability in an unruly region.

The activities of "repatriation companies" are a major source of concern for activists on the tightly controlled island.

Firms hiring foreign labor must lodge 5,000 Singapore dollars (\$3,900) bond with the government for each worker that is returnable only when they leave. Some firms employ companies to hunt down fired or laid-off workers, or those whose contracts have expired, and put them on a plane.

World

AFTER 6TH DAY IN GENEVA

Syria peace talks now in doubt

GENEVA (AP)—U.N.-Arab League mediator Lakhdar Brahimi ended direct talks between the Syrian government and opposition Saturday without finding a way of breaking the impasse in peace talks.

Saturday's talks, which lasted less than half an hour, left the future of the negotiating process in doubt and no date was set for a third session.

Brahimi told a news conference that both sides agreed that the agenda for the next round should focus on four points: ending the violence and terrorism, creating a transitional governing body, building national institutions, and reconciliation.

To avoid losing another week or more before resuming discussions, Brahimi said he proposed that the first day should be reserved for talks on ending violence and combating terrorism, the main thrust of the gov-

ernment's stance, and the second for talking about how to create a transitional body, as the opposition and Western powers insist.

"Unfortunately the government has refused, which raises the suspicion of the opposition that in fact the government doesn't want to discuss the TGB (transitional governing body) at all," Brahimi said.

"In that case, I have suggested that it's not good for the process, it's not good for Syria that we come back for another round and fall in the same trap that we have been struggling with this week and most of the first round," he said. "So I think it is better that every side goes back and reflect and take their responsibility: do they want this process to take place or not?"

Brahimi said he would consult with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, U.S. Secretary of State John

Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov about a way forward.

"I am very, very sorry, and I apologize to the Syrian people that their hopes which were very, very high that something will happen here," Brahimi said.

Syria's ambassador to the U.N., Bashar Jaafari, said the government accepted Brahimi's proposed agenda but a problem was raised "by the other side when they gave their own interpretation of the agenda."

He insisted that the government is committed to returning to negotiations.

"We promised our own people to get back to Geneva to continue the Geneva talks as long as it takes, because we are extremely careful about stopping the bloodshed in Syria and combatting terrorism," Jaafari told reporters. "This I promise you: We will be committed to doing so."

UK taxi driver crushed to death in windstorm

LONDON (AP)—Strong winds that pummeled Britain killed a taxi driver, whose car was crushed by falling chunks of masonry from a building, and an elderly man who died after a "freak wave" struck a cruise ship in the English Channel, officials said Saturday. Another 15 cruise ship passengers were injured.

The taxi driver was killed late Friday in central London near Holborn subway station when part of a building collapsed during a windstorm, police said. She was identified as Julie Sillitoe, a 49-year-old with three sons.

Her passengers, a man and woman, were hospitalized with injuries not believed to be life-threatening, police said. The car wasn't moving at the time of the building col-

lapse and the female passenger managed to free herself from the rear of the vehicle.

A fourth person, believed to be a male pedestrian, also was injured and taken to a hospital, ambulance officials said. About 10 people were evacuated from nearby buildings as a precaution.

The 85-year-old cruise ship passenger died after 80 mph (130 kph) wind gusts kicked up giant waves in the English Channel on Friday afternoon, endangering safety in the crowded shipping lanes used by commercial vessels, cruise ships and pleasure craft. Cruise and Maritime Voyages said a "freak wave" broke five windows on its Marco Polo cruise ship, inundating the ship's Waldorf Restaurant.

Spokesman Paul Foster

said the man died before he could be airlifted for emergency treatment. The cause of death hasn't been determined, he said.

The company said a second passenger was airlifted and is being treated for injuries not thought to be life-threatening. Another 14 passengers were treated on board for minor injuries, the company said.

The Marco Polo was carrying 735 mostly British passengers and 349 crew members when the wave struck. It had been returning to its home port of London Tilbury after a 42-day cruise to the Azores.

The army rescued 30 people from a seafront restaurant in Hampshire, southwest of London, after high winds blew a shingle through its windows, allowing floodwaters in.

WORLD BRIEFS

Bulgarian nationalists stage rally

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)—Hundreds of Bulgarians have marched through their capital to honor a World War II general known for his anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi activities. Sofia's mayor had banned Saturday's rally, organized by the far-right Bulgarian National Union. But police did not intervene after the participants changed its planned route at the last minute. Chanting "Wake up, Bulgarians!" the marchers praised Gen. Hristo Lukov, who had supported Germany during the Second World War and was killed by an anti-fascist resistance movement on Feb. 13, 1943. Human rights groups criticized the march organizers for promoting racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. Authorities have accused nationalists of stirring ethnic strife in Bulgaria, including an attack on a mosque in Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second-largest city, on Friday that left several people injured and 120 arrested.

Ancient skeletons dug up at Florence's Uffizi

ROME (AP)—Work to expand the Uffizi Gallery's exhibit space has unearthed an ancient cemetery with dozens of skeletons archaeologists say might have been victims of the plague or some other epidemic that swept through Florence during the 4th or 5th century. Archaeologists and art officials showed reporters Wednesday the excavation at the renowned museum. In five months of digging, archaeologists uncovered 60 well-preserved skeletons in a cemetery apparently made in a hurry, perhaps a mass grave, with bodies laid side-by-side at roughly the same time. Lack of signs of wounds or malnutrition also could point to death by disease. Archaeologist Andrea Pessina says DNA testing will aim to find evidence of what "certainly was an extremely lethal epidemic," possibly the plague. Work to build an elevator revealed the burial site.

Health & Fitness

Type 1 Diabetes: A treatment's in sight but where's the funding?

By **DAVID TEMPLETON**
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

PITTSBURGH—They successfully treated mice with type 1 diabetes. They don't use the "cure" word.

Now Massimo Trucco and his collaborator Nick Gian-noukakis, associate professor of pathology and also of immunology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, sit on the doorstep of one of the first major new treatments for type 1 diabetes since insulin was discovered in 1922. Other researchers are busy pursuing the same goal.

The big challenge for Dr. Trucco is funding.

Preparing for human clinical trials, the research pediatrician at Children's Hospital of UPMC of Pittsburgh needs \$7 million to \$10 million for a multi-site trial involving 105 people with a recent diagnosis of type 1 diabetes. He's considering beginning with 18-year-olds, and if the therapy succeeds, working backward in age to adolescents.

But federal budget cuts are making it difficult to land research grants through the Na-

tional Institutes of Health. At age 65, and with dwindling finances for his research laboratory, Trucco said he would consider retiring if funding doesn't come through. That could put his potential treatment on the shelf without ever being tested.

"It would be the first trial in which live cells are used to treat a disease that is not cancer, and we would be dealing with children," Trucco said, discussing his desire to see results after decades of research.

A study published last month in *Diabetes* describes the advantages in using one's own genetically engineered dendritic cells to stop the autoimmune cycle that destroys insulin-producing beta cells.

"It is our conviction that the age of personalized cell therapy ... has arrived and that type 1 diabetes could be the first autoimmune disorder to be successfully treated," the study states.

Trucco is leading the pack of researchers targeting dendritic cells as the focus of treatment for type 1. The Phase I human clinical trial already has proven the therapy to be safe while raising excitement for success.

"Massimo clearly is the leader in the field, and the only one, to my knowledge, to get approval for a Phase I trial. He has the correct equipment and facilities to do this," said C. Garrison Fathman, chief of the division of immunology and rheumatology at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

For proposed treatments, he's leading the research in using adoptive cellular therapy, or modifying the immune system's effect on certain cells, to treat a disease other than cancer.

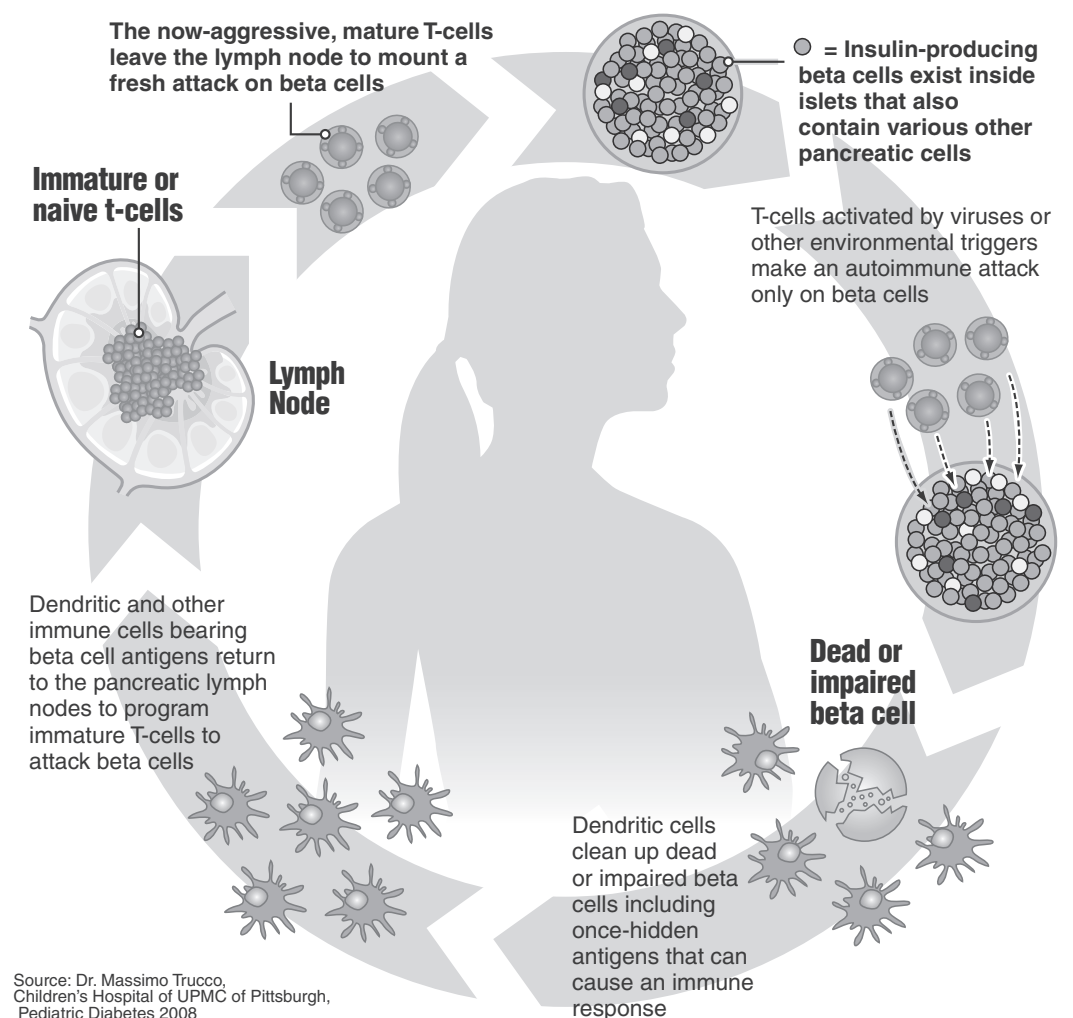
But there are no guarantees in landing funding for a Phase II trial: "It's never been harder to receive NIH funding," Dr. Fathman said, noting that only about 6 percent of research proposals receive NIH funding.

It's not yet known if the Trucco team's procedure will work in humans. If it does, how long would it continue working? Trucco said it must be effective a year or longer to be cost-effective.

The study would be double-blind, which means neither researchers nor participants would know who's receiving treatment. But all participants would undergo blood work, which pre-

How T-cells cause type 1 diabetes

Type 1 diabetes occurs when T-cells attack insulin-producing beta cells in the islets of Langerhans of the pancreas. Debris from dead or impaired beta cells, recovered by dendritic cells (DC), is used to teach new T-cells what to target, continuing the cycle.



Source: Dr. Massimo Trucco, Children's Hospital of UPMC of Pittsburgh, Pediatric Diabetes 2008
Graphic: The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Personal Trainer

Tests of a skier's symmetry

To ski well and avoid injury, you need to be able to turn and lean equally to the right and left; how to assess your muscles' balance:

Do each of these tests on both sides, looking for an imbalance

- 1 See how far from a wall you can stand on one leg with back toward wall, then reach upward with both arms and touch wall
- 2 Stand on one leg; see how deeply you can bend knee on that side, holding hands waist-high, and then return to starting position

3

Stand on one leg; jump forward while turning 90 degrees to same side as leg; see how far you can jump, then regain balance for 5 seconds

Source: Ski Racing, physical therapist Laura Keller of The Stone Clinic (San Francisco)

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

These tests can also be used as strength-building exercises if they reveal an imbalance between sides

© 2014 MCT

sented an initial concern.

The process known as leukapheresis requires a patient to sit for two hours while his or her blood is transferred from one arm, through a filter to capture dendritic cells, then into a blood vessel in the other arm. It raised ethical questions: Should participants who don't receive treatment be required to undergo a medical procedure?

In a conference call Wednesday, Trucco advised U.S. Food and Drug Administration officials that all participants' blood work would be saved. If the procedure works, those in the placebo groups immediately would undergo the treatment with their own genetically engineered dendritic cells.

"I am excited because FDA just gave us the green light to write our proposal," Trucco said after the meeting, adding that the approval was necessary for the study to proceed.

One in 400 children develop type 1 diabetes, the American Diabetes Association says, with as many as a million Americans having the disease. The majority of the nearly 26 million Americans with diabetes have type 2, which is thought to involve an insensitivity to one's own insulin.

Insulin turns blood glucose into cellular energy. With the pancreas no longer able to provide sufficient insulin in type

1 diabetes, the person must take daily injections of insulin or use an insulin pump, along with other dietary and testing requirements to keep blood-sugar levels in or near the normal range.

Even for those who take insulin, persistent elevations in blood sugar still can lead to multiple health problems, including heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, and circulatory problems that can lead to amputations of the extremities.

But as Trucco and others have determined, type 1 diabetes involves a biological conspiracy, beginning with a genetic predisposition activated by an environmental or epigenetic factor, such as a viral infection. The result is an errant immune response that kills the body's own insulin-producing beta cells.

Here's a highly simplified explanation of why type 1 diabetes occurs:

T-cells are the attack dogs of the immune system when they spot a foreign invader. In the case of diabetes, a vicious circle occurs, although it's unclear whether T-cells begin the process by attacking beta cells or the dendritic cells initiate it by teaching immature T-cells to target beta cells.

As it happens, the T-cells errantly attack beta cells located in the islets of Langerhans in the

pancreas, which also contain other pancreatic cells with specific metabolic functions. The attack breaks beta cells apart, exposing hidden antigens that the immune system considers to be new targets to attack. The dendritic cells clean up the debris and return to a pancreatic lymph node to expose immature T-cells to the beta-cell debris, which teaches them what to target to attack.

The T-cells leave the lymph node and mount a new assault on beta cells.

The body has a million beta cells. Diabetic symptoms occur when roughly 80 percent are destroyed, Trucco said. The destructive cycle continues until few if any surviving beta cells are available, leaving the person with marginal, if any, insulin production.

The Trucco team says dendritic cells are more easily obtained from the blood and genetically engineered in the laboratory than T-cells or other conspirators in the process. Engineering them to be tolerant to beta cells requires a newly created strand of RNA, which inactivates the RNA that encodes the molecules that cause dendritic cell to misidentify beta cells as dangerous. Returning to the pancreatic lymph nodes, the treated dendritic cells no longer are able to instruct T-cells to attack beta cells.

Life & Style

What Facebook knows about love, in numbers



In this Sunday, May 13, 2012, file photo, flowers are added to a Facebook sign in front of Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif. On Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014, Facebook celebrates 10 years since its inception.

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—With 1.23 billion users in all the flavors and up-and-down stages of romantic relationships, Facebook knows a thing or two about love.

For example, two people who are about to enter a relationship interact more and more on Facebook in the weeks leading up to making their coupled status official—up until 12 days before the start of the relationship, when they share an average of 1.67 posts per day.

Then, their Facebook interactions start to decline—

presumably because they are spending more time together offline. But while they interact less, couples are more likely to express positive emotions toward their each other once they are in a relationship, researchers on Facebook's data science team found.

Touching on everything from religion to age differences, Facebook has been disclosing such light-hearted findings in a series of blog posts this week, with one coming up later Friday and another, on breakups, Saturday. Friday, of course, is Valentine's Day.

Facebook data scientist Mike Develin, whose background is

in mathematics, notes that the relationship stuff is sort a side project for his team, the findings geared more toward academic papers than Facebook's day-to-day business. His "day job" is Facebook's search function—how people use it, what they are searching for that isn't available and how to make it more useful.

But the patterns Facebook's researchers can detect help illustrate just how useful the site's vast trove of data can be in mapping human interactions and proving or disproving assumptions about relationships. Can horoscopes predict lasting love? Forget about it.

"We have such a wide-ranging set of data, including on places there may not be data on otherwise," Develin said, adding that because Facebook knows a lot about people's authentic identity, there are "almost no boundaries" to the kinds of questions the researchers can explore—about the structure of society, culture and how people interact.

Someday, researchers studying Facebook data may be able to predict whether a couple will break up, learn whether people are happy together or see what makes relationships last. Of course, the data has its limits—not everyone is on Facebook

and not every Facebook user shares everything on the site.

Still, people share quite a bit. When looking at breakups through the lens of changed relationship statuses (see: "Joe Doe is single"), the researchers found couples who split up and got back together—and dutifully documented it on Facebook—10 or 15 times a year. The maximum, Develin, recalls, was a couple who went in and out of a relationship 27 times in one year. While one may assume that a couple wouldn't want to broadcast so much relationship drama to the world, people actually "very faithfully update Facebook at each twist and turn," he says.

Facebook's researchers use aggregated, anonymized data from hundreds of millions of users on the site. This means that while they see information

such as age, location, gender, a person's relationship status, for example, such data is not tied back to a specific person.

It was in a study of 18 million anonymized Facebook posts exchanged by 462,000 Facebook couples that researchers delved into how "sweet" couples are to one another on the social networking site.

"For each timeline interaction, we counted the proportion of words expressing positive emotions (like 'love,' 'nice,' 'happy,' etc.) minus the proportion of words expressing negative ones (like 'hate,' 'hurt,' 'bad,' etc.)," writes Facebook data scientist Carlos Diuk in Friday's blog post. The data is plotted on a graph, which shows a visible, general increase in the proportion of warm fuzzy feelings right at the start of a relationship.

Malcolm X family upset with Nicki Minaj

NEW YORK (AP)—Malcolm X's family and estate said Nicki Minaj's use of a famous photo of the black nationalist with a rifle in his hands and juxtaposing it with a racial slur for her new song's artwork is disrespectful and offensive.

In an exclusive statement to The Associated Press on Friday, Malcolm X's daughter, Ilyasah Shabazz, said Minaj's use of the picture "in no way is endorsed by our family."

"Ms. Minaj's artwork for her single does not depict the truth of Malcolm X's legacy," Shabazz's statement said.

Minaj apologized Thursday. She pulled the artwork after she was criticized on social media platforms for using the photoWMark Roesler, CEO of CMG Worldwide—which is the business representative for the Malcolm X estate—called Minaj's use of the photo "dehumanizing."

"This is a family photo that was taken out of context in a totally inaccurate and tasteless way," said his statement on behalf of the family.

L. Londell McMillan, the attorney for the Malcolm X estate and the black leader's daughters—and estate administrators—Ilyasah and Malaak Shabazz, said in a statement Friday that those using the famous photo of Malcolm X need to remove it immediately.

"Failure to do so within the next 24 hours shall result in legal action," said McMillan, who is also the lawyer for Malcolm X's daughters, Attallah, Qubilah and Gamilah Shabazz. "The initial act and subsequent acts of distribution were improper and ill-advised. Any disparagement, infringement or disrespect of Malcolm X,



Malcolm X

and his name, image, likeness and proprietary rights will not be tolerated."

Minaj's representatives didn't return emails seeking comment.

Minaj posted the artwork Wednesday on her Instagram page and website. The photo shows Malcolm X holding a rifle as he was trying to protect his family from death threats; his home had been firebombed.

"I apologize to the Malcolm X estate if the meaning of the photo was misconstrued. ... I have nothing but respect (and) adoration for u," Minaj said on her Instagram page following the criticism.

The 31-year-old rapper-singer said later Thursday in an interview with radio station Hot 97 that she wrote the song to empower women because there are too many songs that attack females.

"It was almost parallel in my opinion because he has this big gun ready to shoot at a lookin' (expletive) bleep, and that's how I looked at it," she said. "I looked at it as this is one of the most memorable people in our history, in black history, who voiced his opinion no matter what, and I understand how my intent was overlooked and I definitely didn't want to offend his family or his legacy."

In the song's music video, Minaj is shooting guns.

Ilyasah Shabazz said Minaj's use of her father's photo is part of a larger problem in today's culture.

Allende sorry for remarks about mystery novels

NEW YORK (AP)—Isabel Allende would like to apologize to all the fans and writers of mystery novels.

Not everyone is forgiving her.

The million-selling author, whose latest book, "Ripper," is a thriller that updates the story of Jack the Ripper, angered many when, during a recent interview with NPR, she said that her novel was a "joke."

During a telephone interview Friday with The Associated Press, Allende said her comments themselves were a joke, a joke that didn't work. She said she had great respect for mystery fiction and noted that she was married to a mystery writer, William C. Gordon.

"Sometimes my humor doesn't come through," Allende explained, adding that she was trying to be self-deprecating. "I am so sorry that I wasn't clear. I take my writing very seriously and I have tried many genres

and I've always done it in a very serious way."

Best known for such works of magical realism as "The House of the Spirits," Allende was interviewed last month for NPR's "All Things Considered." Allende said on the program that she was "not a fan of mysteries" and that she had a hard time connecting to some of the recent best-sellers.

"It's too gruesome, too violent, too dark; there's no redemption there. And the characters are just awful. Bad people. Very entertaining, but really bad people," she said. "So I thought, I will take the genre, write a mystery that is faithful to the formula and to what the readers expect, but it is a joke."

The owner of a Houston store, Murder By The Book, was so offended by the NPR interview that she sent back copies she had ordered of "Ripper." Allende has emailed a letter to



Allende

the owner, McKenna Jordan, saying that her remarks were an attempt at a "lighter tone" during a "grueling book tour" and that she treated "Ripper" no less seriously than her other novels.

"For 'Ripper,' I worked an average of 10 to 12 hours a day, writing, researching, rethinking, reworking for six months, seven days a week, until I felt satisfied with my final draft," she wrote in the letter, which Allende's publisher, HarperCollins, shared with the AP. "And then I edited for three more months afterward. It was truly no joke for me."

Jordan, speaking by phone Friday to the AP, said she ap-

preciated that Allende had written to her, but called the apology "halfhearted and self-serving."

"She was probably pushed into the apology by her publisher," said Jordan, who has no current plans to restock the book. "I understand she may have had a bad day when she spoke to NPR, but when you're doing a national interview, you don't have the opportunity to have a bad day."

Allende, 71, is one of the world's most popular novelists, and her comments were hurtful in part because they are so familiar to the communities of mystery, romance and other "genre fiction" that have a long history of feeling dismissed by advocates of "literary" fiction. "The whole heart of the matter is that Allende said publicly the same things that have often been said privately," Jordan said.

'Juno' actress Ellen Page comes out as gay

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ellen Page, who won the hearts of moviegoers as the pregnant teenager in the 2007 film "Juno," has come out as gay.

The 26-year-old told a Las Vegas audience Friday, "I'm here today because I am gay." She was speaking to a confer-

ence of counselors who work with teenagers who identify as lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual or queer.

A video of her speech was posted on the Los Angeles Times website.

Page says she suffered for years because she was afraid to

come out. She told the audience, "I'm standing here today, with all of you, on the other side of all that pain."

Page received an Oscar nomination for her performance in "Juno." She also had major roles in "X-Men: The Last Stand" in 2006 and "Inception" in 2010.



AP

Ellen Page arrives at the LA premiere of Fox Searchlight Pictures' "The East" presented by Piaget in this May 28, 2013 file photo taken in Los Angeles.

Simon Cowell welcomes baby son Eric

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Simon Cowell is a proud new father.

A spokeswoman for Cowell says he and socialite Lauren Silverman welcomed their baby son early Friday evening, in New York.

The spokeswoman, AnnMarie Thomson, says the infant weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces

(2.9 kilograms), and is named Eric, after Cowell's father.

Cowell, of "American Idol" and "The X Factor" fame, posted a series of tweets about the happy event. He says the new mom is in "great shape" and describes his new son as "healthy and handsome."

Last year, Cowell dodged

questions about his relationship with the married Silverman. But he later called her "special" and said he feels good about fatherhood, something he hadn't previously considered.

People magazine reported that Silverman's divorce from Andrew Silverman became final in New York in December.

Princes William, Harry sandbag against UK floods

LONDON (AP)—Prince William and Prince Harry helped flood-hit British villagers protect their homes Friday, unloading sandbags alongside soldiers in a River Thames village.

The princes, who have both served in the armed forces, joined a work crew in Datchet, west of London, from about 6 a.m. on what aides said was a private visit.

The princes were not the only royals helping out. Their grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, has sent feed and bedding from the royal farms at Windsor to farmers whose land has been inundated.

England, which has been lashed by wind and rain since December, had its wettest January since records began in 1766, and the rain has continued this month. Storms this week have brought wind gusts of more than 100 mph (160 kph).

Floods have drenched the southwestern coast of Eng-



AP

Britain's Prince William, The Duke of Cambridge, centre, unloads sandbags, with members of the armed forces, in Datchet, England, Friday Feb. 14, 2014.

land, the low-lying Somerset Levels and the Thames Valley west of London, where hundreds of properties have been swamped after the river burst its banks.

Another bout of gale-force winds hit the country Friday, bringing large waves and up to

1.6 inches (4 centimeters) of rain.

As winds gusted at up to 80 mph (130 kph), landslips and fallen trees caused havoc on the rail network, and some arriving flights were diverted from London's Heathrow to other airports amid fierce bouts of wind.

'House of Cards' cast enjoys support from insiders

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The political thriller "House of Cards" launched its second season with support from fans in real-life Washington power circles.

The online series about a scheming, sometimes murderous couple, played by Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright, premiered in its entirety Friday on Netflix.

President Barack Obama's official Twitter account notes the occasion along with the request: "No spoilers, please." The tweet was not signed to indicate it came directly from the president, however, and the account is run by his group Organizing For Action.

Wright won a Golden Globe Awards for her portrayal of Claire Underwood, wife of Spacey's vice president-to-be Frank Underwood. She says Obama "knows good stuff."

where he lived after his time as president—and is South Carolina's only presidential site.

De La Soul give away catalog—for 25 hours

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—De La Soul is making it feel like 1989 all over again—for 25 hours. The influential hip-hop group released seven albums worth of material for free on its website for 25 hours starting Friday morning to celebrate the impending 25th anniversary of its classic debut album, "3 Feet High and Rising." The group's music, available through 11 a.m. EST Saturday, had become frustratingly hard to purchase through legal means. Demand appeared to be heavy enough midday Friday to overwhelm the group's chosen download provider temporarily. And it wasn't just listeners excited about the move. Folks in the music business were watching with fascination as well.

Girlfriend's texts to stepfather throw family out of whack

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My youngest grown son discovered that his girlfriend—his possible future wife—was texting pictures of herself to his stepfather. Needless to say, he told her the relationship is over.

Now, for obvious reasons, he no longer wants to be around his stepfather, and is deeply concerned about how it will affect his relationship with his mother, my ex-wife. They are close, which I encouraged, but she seems to be in denial about the situation. Have you any suggestions on how to be supportive of my son and all the dynamics?

TOO MUCH DRAMA IN MISSOURI

DEAR TOO MUCH DRAMA: You say your ex-wife seems to be in denial. Was the reason for the breakup ever explained to her? If it wasn't, then your son should talk to his mother about it, and from then on arrange to see her alone.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I just dropped off my 13-year-old son at a party. He's a seventh-grader, and when I take him to a friend's house, if I haven't met the parents, I walk him to the door and introduce him and myself to them.

I do this to try and make sure the parents are at home and responsible. (Honestly, if they weren't, I'd take my son and leave.) I know it embarrasses him, but most parents thank me because they want to meet the parents of the kids who are in their homes.

Times are different for our kids today. I just can't believe that someone would simply drop off a child and speed away when he/she has absolutely no clue who these people are. I'm not a helicopter parent; I'm just a mother who loves my children enough to make sure they're in good hands.

Recently, a ninth-grader in our school district had a house party where 30 kids received underage drinking citations! Sorry—but I'm taking no chances. Parenting is not being your child's best friend. Please encourage parents not to be afraid to reach out to other parents. It really does take a village.

VIGILANT IN BUCKS COUNTY, PA.

DEAR VIGILANT: Your children are fortunate to have a mother who is as involved in their lives as you are. Not all young people are so lucky. Your son may find your vigilance embarrassing, but take comfort in knowing that all kids your son's age find their parents embarrassing.

Orchids to you for pointing out the importance of parents networking with each other to ensure that their children are safe and supervised. When an entire "village" is watching, there is less chance of a lamb straying.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my wife for 33 years. I recently found a pair of her panties with "Booty Call" printed across the back. I can't help but wonder. She has never had underwear like that in 33 years. What gives?

SURPRISED TEXAN

DEAR SURPRISED: Was your wife wearing the lingerie at the time? If not, how did you discover the panties?

The surest way to get to the bottom of this would be to ask your wife this question. She may have thought they were cute and bought them on impulse—or they may have been a gift. Please let me know, because not only am I interested in her answer, but I'm sure millions of readers are curious, too.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

John Henson, son of Muppets creator, dies at 48

SAUGERTIES, New York (AP)—John Henson, the son of the late Muppets creator Jim Henson, has died in New York. He was 48. Cheryl Henson says her brother died of a "massive heart attack" at his home in Saugerties on Friday. She says it happened after he had been building an igloo in the snow with his daughter. Henson followed in his famous father's footsteps as a puppeteer, performing as Sweetums the ogre in several films, including "Muppet Treasure Island" and "It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie." He was also a shareholder and board member of the Jim Henson Company. Henson leaves behind his wife Gyongyi and two daughters, ages 10 and 15.

George Washington document on view at

Spy Museum

WASHINGTON (AP)—An original letter written by George Washington that initiated a spy network during the Revolutionary War is going on display for a limited time at the International Spy Museum in Washington. The museum says Washington's letter, written on Feb. 4, 1777, launched the nation's first spy network. While then-Gen. Washington was commander in chief of the Continental Army, he wrote to confidant Nathaniel Sackett, commissioning him to spy for his country as Washington's "intelligence director." Sackett was to be paid \$50 per month to create a spy network in New York. He was given a \$500 bonus up front. The museum acquired the fragile document in 2002 from Sackett's family. It's usually kept in storage for preservation. The document will be on view through March.

Woodrow Wilson's

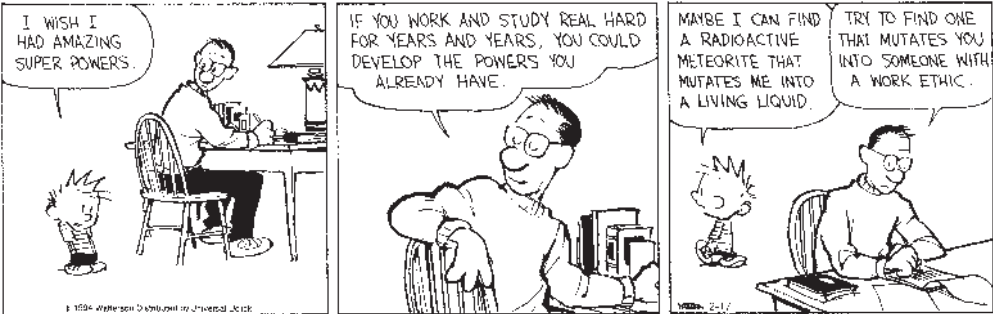
Columbia home reopening to public

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP)—After nearly a decade of renovations, the South Carolina home where President Woodrow Wilson lived as a teenager is reopening to the public as a museum not only about the politician but also the Reconstruction Era. On Saturday, to kick off Presidents Day weekend, visitors will once again be able to see the home where the 28th president of the United States moved at age 13 and spent his teenage years. Wilson's father taught at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Columbia and was minister at First Presbyterian Church, where Wilson's father, mother and sister are all buried. The villa-style home built in 1871 is one of four historic sites for Wilson—along with his birthplace in Stanton, Virginia; a home in Augusta, Georgia, where he grew up; and the Washington, D.C., home

Pastimes

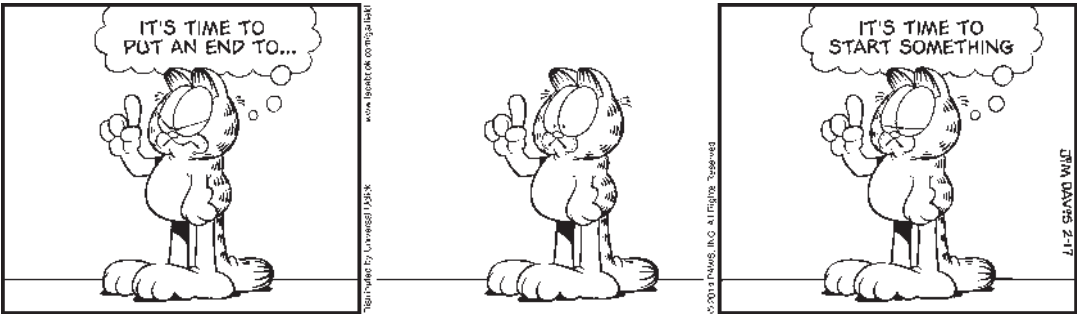
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



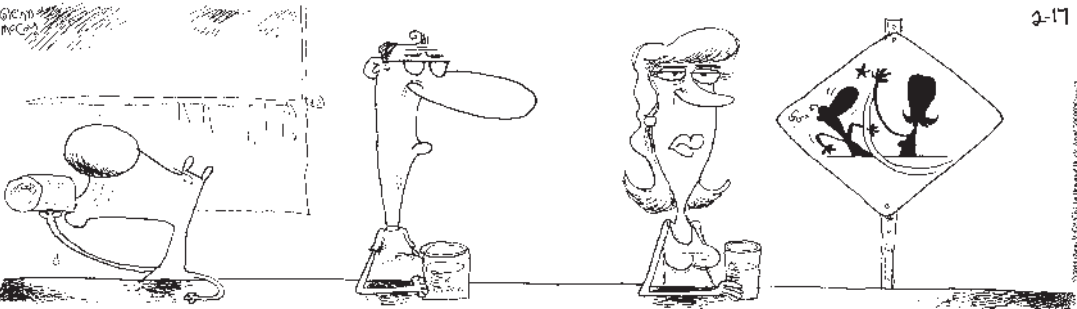
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Moon-shine container
4 Oust from the ABA
9 Crow's cry
12 Alias abbr.
13 Banish (Sp.)
14 Bear (Sp.)
15 Learned by rote
17 "Abner"
18 Huge
19 Isolated
21 Happen to
24 Wound souvenir
25 Cheer-leader's call
26 Conclude
28 Omit in pronunciation
31 On the briny
33 Male turkey
35 Business baron
36 Walk heavily
38 Lummax

DOWN

1 Toast topping
2 Luau
3 Group of whales
4 Ridicule
5 Requiring immediate action
6 "That's show —"
7 Baldwin and Guinness
8 Lessen
9 Convert-ed from black-and-white
10 "Yeah, right"
11 Red Riding Hood's pursuer
16 Japanese sash
20 Body powder
21 Some unmen-tionables
22 Sunrise site
23 Specu-lated
27 Scooby-—
29 "Phooey!"
30 Gaelic
32 "So be it"
34 Team animals?
37 Annoyed
39 Broccoli piece
42 Physique
44 Numer-ical prefix
45 Mop
46 Employ
50 Taro recipe
51 Use the micro-wave
52 Night before
53 Morning moisture

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	F	C	O	D	M	F	L	A	W
I	R	A	G	A	P	E	E	A	C
C	A	T	A	L	Y	S	T	D	I
A	C	E	S	B	O	N	E	T	
P	A	R	I	S	D	O	U	R	
E	G	A	D	B	A	R	R	A	C
D	E	C	S	A	T	A	N	A	N
I	S	T	A	N	B	U	L	A	T
P	O	E	M	A	B	A	T	E	
U	P	B	O	W	O	P	E	C	
S	L	U	G	C	A	T	A	L	O
P	O	S	E	W	H	I	R	M	O
S	T	Y	E	T	A	C	T	B	O

Friday's answer 2-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, 33; Paris Hilton, 33; Denise Richards, 43; Billie Joe Armstrong, 42.

Happy Birthday: Procrastination won't get the results you are looking for. Align yourself with the doers. Put your intuition to work for you and size up the best possible way to get the results that will buy you greater freedom. Work, money and investments will help you gain the confidence required to mingle with people who have as much to contribute as you. Your numbers are 5, 8, 19, 26, 35, 44, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on your future, not on your past. Make changes based on what's important to you and how you want to move forward personally. Opportunity will develop if you share your ideas and concerns with someone influential. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Helping others can be rewarding as long as you aren't being taken for granted. Draw the line if anyone is too demanding. Your time and expertise is valuable and you should be rewarded for your effort. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Think before making a decision that will alter your status. Mixing business with pleasure will not play out in your favor. Make decisions based on your goals, not your current desires. Ask for written documentation before you commit. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your imagination coupled with your expertise and you will find a way to improve your relationships as well as your home environment. Compromise and you will get into a give-and-

take situation that is both comforting and prosperous. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't fear change or what others think of you. Move in the direction that offers guidance and a better future. Make choices that will make you happy and content with your life. Take better care of your mental, physical and financial wellness. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep an open mind and go the extra mile. What you do to help others as well as to ensure that you are living up to your expectations, integrity and standards will determine who stands by your side and respects you. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Network, ask questions and use your intuitive intelligence in order to make the best choice. A contract will bring you financial gains. Focus on the fine print and details. A good idea can turn into a great one if you don't cut corners. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may face opposition, but don't get coerced into doing something for the wrong reasons. Get your facts straight from the source before you jump into action. Taking control will save you from ending up in a vulnerable position. Romance is highlighted. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't allow an emotional encounter with someone to ruin your plans. An honest answer may not be easy to deliver, but it will help you reach your destination quicker. An alteration regarding your home or domestic situation is likely to be costly. **

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A financial, contractual or legal matter will turn in your favor. Don't leave any stone unturned. Look over personal papers and make a decision without getting angry or jumping to conclusions. A calm, calculated response will lead to victory. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may have an unusual way of doing or seeing things, but it's your innovative ideas and unique way of following through that will help you reach your goals. Don't let anyone make you feel self-conscious. Do your own thing. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Reconsider your connection to the people around you and look for a way to collaborate in order to reach a common goal. A change in attitude regarding children or friendships will bring you closer to the people you love the most. ***

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, productive and trendy. You are helpful and considerate.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](http://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](http://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](http://linkedin.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	6				8	9	3		
8	5			6	1	2			
				2			1	8	
							3	6	
	2	4		9		1	8		
5	8								
2	3			7					
		8	2	3			7	1	
4		1	9				6		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	1	9	5	4	8	7	3
8	3	9	7	6	2	4	5	1
5	4	7	1	3	8	2	9	6
6	5	4	8	1	3	7	2	9
3	9	2	6	4	7	1	8	5
7	1	8	2	9	5	6	3	4
1	8	6	5	7	9	3	4	2
9	2	3	4	8	1	5	6	7
4	7	5	3	2	6	9	1	8

Difficulty Level ★ 2/17
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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JIMMY FALLON STARTS 'THE TONIGHT SHOW' Solution: 8 letters

H E N R O L Y E G S T E V E R
H I S T A R V L I O H D V E E
S O G O A E O N P E N U T I P
H E S G N R G E T A P I N G L
O A M T I E N W B S R D S I A
W N S A R N L S E W T G E D C
Q M E O J K S H I H U B T S E
U I L A Q V C N G E J O S H K
E C Y Y K T N I S T U D I O L
S H T E E I N T R R V S S M A
T A S K E E S E N F O T S K I T
L E S R T H O M A S N O I L U
O L O A N N O U N C E R T E B
V S L S R E E H C R N Y S S E
E S N A F U N N Y D E M O C D

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Last Friday's Answer: Kiss
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CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Administrative/Accounting Clerk. Holder of a Bachelor's Degree. Must have at least two (2) years work experience in public accounting office. Must have at least five (5) years work experience in administrative position and extensive exposure working with company executives. Must have more than five (5) years experience in accounting work. Must be knowledgeable in income tax return preparation and compilation of financial statements. Must be knowledgeable in various accounting software such as Quickbooks, Peachtree, FAS & tax software. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience, beginning at \$5.55/hour. Please mail your resume at P.O. Box 503198 Saipan, MP 96950 (Ernst & Young (CNMI) Inc.)

Commercial Cleaners (3) Email resume and references to beej_johnson@yahoo.com or call 287-2757.

(10) Mason, (5) Carpenter, (1) Plumber, 5 years experience. Email resume to landmark@pticom.com.

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Oshie's 4 shootout goals lead US past Russia 3-2



SOCHI, Russia (AP)—T.J. Oshie brainstormed while he skated to center ice, desperately trying to come up with one last move to end an epic shootout. He had already taken five shots at Sergei Bobrovsky, and the Russians were still even.

Yet Oshie was chosen for the U.S. men's hockey team with just such a situation in mind, and the shootout specialist concocted one last clever goal to silence an arena filled with screaming Russian fans.

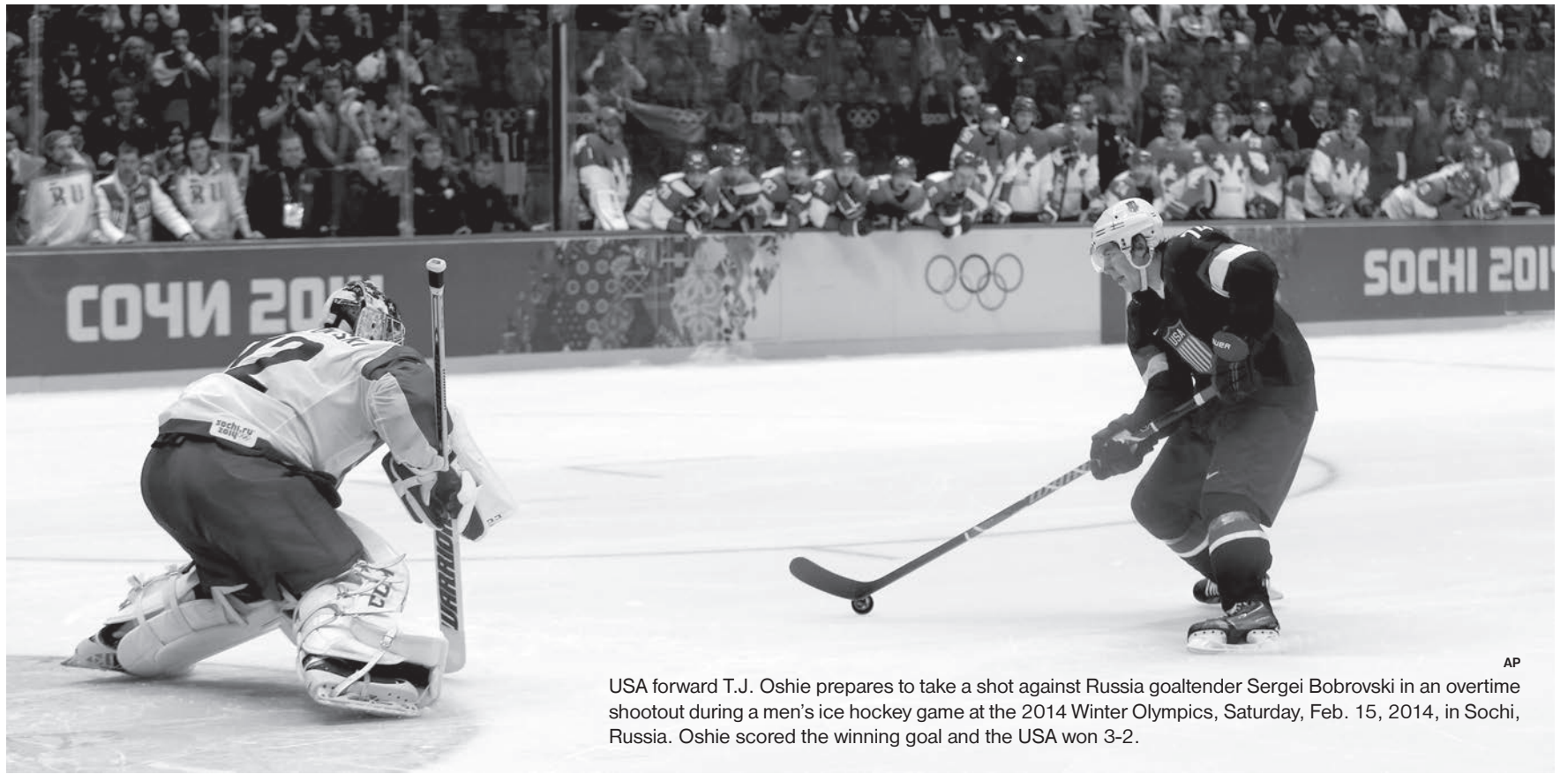
Oshie scored four times in the shootout and put the winner between Bobrovsky's legs in the eighth round, leading the United States past Russia 3-2 Saturday in the thrilling revival of a classic Olympic hockey rivalry.

"I was just thinking of something else I could do, trying to keep him guessing," said Oshie, the St. Louis Blues forward. "Had to go back to the same move a couple times, but I was glad it ended when it did. I was running out of moves there."

International rules allow the same player to take multiple shots after the first three rounds of a shootout, and U.S. coach Dan Bylsma leaned on Oshie's array of slick shots and change-of-pace approaches to the net. Oshie scored on the Americans' first shot before taking the last five in a row, going 4 for 6 against Bobrovsky and disappointing a Bolshoy Ice Dome crowd including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"I aged a couple of years in that shootout," Bylsma said. "We had other guys that are capable, but T.J. was the guy who was going well. It seemed like he was going to score every time he went."

Oshie's final shot was a beauty: He threaded a forehand



USA forward T.J. Oshie prepares to take a shot against Russia goaltender Sergei Bobrovski in an overtime shootout during a men's ice hockey game at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, in Sochi, Russia. Oshie scored the winning goal and the USA won 3-2.

right through Bobrovsky's pads, the puck punching the back of the Russian net emphatically enough to pop the water bottle on top into the air.

"At some point, you think, 'Does he have any more moves left?'" U.S. captain Zach Parise said. "But he did a good job. ... That's hard to do, to get in a goalie's head and throw him off a little bit."

Oshie was among the final selections for the U.S. roster, and though the 27-year-old from Warroad, Minn., has never had a 20-goal NHL season, he leads American-born players with seven shootout goals this season.

The U.S. men are only interested in the one that all but wrapped up an automatic berth in the quarterfinals next week.

"I think you're going to see T.J. Oshie become a household name after that display he put

on," said David Backes, Oshie's teammate in St. Louis. "The kids will be out on the pond probably in Minnesota right now, throwing a 5-hole on the goalie three or four times in a row."

Cam Fowler and Joe Pavelski scored in regulation for the Americans in the marquee game of the preliminary round. Jonathan Quick made 29 saves and stopped five attempts in the shootout as the U.S. improved to 2-0.

Captain Pavel Datsyuk scored two goals in regulation and another in the shootout for the Russians, who rallied from a third-period deficit in a fast-paced game. Russia also had an apparent goal waved off with 4:40 left because Quick's net came off its moorings.

"The U.S. team is a good team and a good test for us," Datsyuk said. "We played good, but the result is not good."

The shootout finish was entertaining, but the entire game was international hockey at its most compelling—and the third period was a thriller.

Pavelski scored the tie-breaking goal for the Americans on a power play with 10:33 to play, but Datsyuk tied it with 7:16 left during a Russian power play, spurring Putin out of his seat to cheer.

After review, the officials waved off Fedor Tyutin's apparent go-ahead goal because the net was loose, incensing the crowd. Russian coach Zinetula Bilyaletdinov and Alex Ovechkin both felt Quick had intentionally dislodged his net earlier in the sequence.

"I don't know what happened there, but definitely was a goal," Ovechkin said. "Nobody touched the net. Their goalie touched the net and put it out. But the referee has to see it and

at least give him two minutes, you know?"

Quick claimed he didn't even realize the net had come unmoored.

"You need to catch some breaks to win games," he said.

Both teams had quality chances in overtime, but Bobrovsky denied Patrick Kane on a breakaway in the most hair-raising moment.

Oshie started off the shootout with a low shot between Bobrovsky's legs, and the next four shooters missed before Ilya Kovalchuk scored in the third round. Datsyuk and Kovalchuk scored in the fifth and sixth rounds, respectively, but Oshie tied it twice in dramatic fashion.

Datsyuk and Oshie both missed in the seventh, and Quick denied Kovalchuk again before Oshie ended it.

"It was a good game, very interesting," Pittsburgh Penguins

star Evgeni Malkin said. "Two, I think, best teams played, and showed OK hockey. But shootouts is lucky."

The arena was packed to overflowing with fans of both nations jovially posing for photos and comparing their colorful sweaters. The Russians waved hundreds of flags, blew horns and banged drums from the first moments of warm-ups.

Although the game had little impact on the medal race in Sochi, the finish woke up the echoes of a U.S.-Russia rivalry best known for the "Miracle on Ice" at Lake Placid in 1980, when a team of American college students stunned the Soviet Olympic team.

The sociopolitical impact of that game is long gone, and the nations have already met three previous times in the Olympics since NHL players joined the games in 1998.

William McGirt takes lead at Riviera

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A city known for its star power has a PGA Tour event filled with fairy tales off Sunset Boulevard.

Start with William McGirt, who ran off eight birdies in 13 holes at Riviera on his way to a 6-under 65 on Saturday to build a two-shot lead in the Northern Trust Open. Going into his fourth full season, McGirt has never won on the PGA Tour. His last victory was on the eGolf Tour in the Carolinas, where the \$16,000 winner's check paid off his credit cards. Asked to name the mini-tours he played, McGirt said he would run out of fingers and toes counting them.

"When you're around mini-tours for eight years and go through a bunch of heartaches at Q-school, once you finally get here, you really have to ap-

preciate it," he said.

He was at 12-under 201, two shots ahead of George McNeill (66) and Charlie Beljan (68).

McNeill was working in a pro shop until giving the tour one last shot, and it already has produced two wins, though neither was enough to get into the Masters. Beljan

lost in a playoff at Riviera last year. He is best known for being wheeled off the course at Disney on a stretcher because of a panic attack, and winning two days later.

And then there's Jason Allred.

He hasn't played a PGA Tour event since qualifying for the 2010 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach. His wife is due with their third child at the end of the month, so Allred came over to try to Monday qualify. After opening with a 73, he followed

with a 64 on Friday and a 67 on Saturday and now is just three shots behind.

A victory would give him a two-year exemption, trips to the Masters and PGA Championship, Kapalua and Bay Hill and the Memorial and Firestone, even Shanghai.

He got choked up talking about support from his wife and the treat to be able to have a week like this.

"Making the putt on 18 is probably the most excitement I felt from the crowd ever in my career," said Allred, who holed a 10-footer on the final hole. "I can't tell you how much it means to me to be able to be at a place in my life. I just have so much to be thankful for with my amazing family. It just feels great to be out here and soak it up."

One of them could emerge a big winner Sunday, though

there are plenty of stars right behind them.

The leaderboard at times was more crowded than the 405, which has been reduced to two lanes this weekend because of construction, causing traffic that is bad even by LA standards. When the third round ended, 15 players were within five shots of the lead.

That's not much at Riviera, on Sunday, chasing someone who has never had a 54-hole lead on the PGA Tour.

The group at 8-under 205 featured Jordan Spieth (67), Dustin Johnson (69) and Jimmy Walker (67), who is going for his fourth win of the season after winning last week in the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-am. Also in that group were a pair of Masters champions, Bubba Watson (64) and Charl Schwartzel (68).

Behind them were a pair of former champions at Riviera, Bill Haas and Aaron Baddeley.

"I've just got to go play my

game tomorrow and hope that it's good enough," McGirt said.

McGirt held up nicely the last time he had a chance like this. He was in the last group at the 2010 Canadian Open, one shot out of the lead, and stayed near the lead all round until making bogey on the tough 18th hole at Hamilton Golf and Country Club to finish one shot behind Scott Piercy.

The 34-year-old from South Carolina has much at stake Sunday. McGirt has played in only one major, the PGA Championship two years ago. He hasn't won a proper event in nearly seven years, and even his one claim-to-fame comes with a caveat. McGirt made two aces in one round at a charity event, the second one worth a car.

Turns out the event failed to pay for insurance in case a professional made the hole-in-one. McGirt received a weedwacker shaped like a golf club, instead.

First place at the Northern Trust Open is worth \$1,206,000, which is \$22,000 short of his best season on tour.

McGirt is among four players from the top 12 who have never won on tour. The others are Brian Harman, who had a 68 and was three shots behind, Cameron Tringale, who had a 67 and was in the group four shots behind, and Allred.

This week already has been more than Allred could have dreamed, and he dreams a lot.

"I need to be honest, it's totally blown them out of the water," he said of his expectations. "But also to be honest, even when I go out to practice, whether it's to prepare for a gate way tournament or this week, I still have that belief in me that I have in me to win big golf tournaments. At times, even I have a hard time believing that over the years, but it sure is fun to be out here and be able to have a chance."

Wall leads East to All-Star dunk triumph



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—John Wall soared over his mascot, and the East stomped on the

West in the slam dunk contest.

Wall's sensational slam finished off a clean sweep for the Washington star, Paul George and Terrence Ross in the contest's new battle format, helping the Eastern Conference earn a 2-2 tie against the West on All-Star Saturday night.

Answering Sacramento rookie Ben McLemore's dunk in which he leaped over Shaquille O'Neal seated in a king's throne, Wall took the ball from Wizards mascot G-Man, who held it above his head, then brought it down between his legs and slammed down a reverse dunk.

Judges Dominique Wilkins, Magic Johnson and Julius Erving all gave the victory to Wall in his matchup, after previously picking George over Harrison Barnes, and defending champion Ross over Damian Lillard.

San Antonio's Marco Belinelli won the 3-point contest, and Lillard and Utah rookie Trey Burke won the skills challenge for the West's two victories. Miami's Chris Bosh, Wilkins and WNBA star Swin Cash won the night's first event for the East, the shooting stars.

The league tried to jazz up All-Star Saturday for its return to New Orleans, with a number of tweaks to the format. Players were given an entire rack of money balls worth 2 points in the 3-point contest, which they could place at any of the five spots on the floor.

The skills challenge became a team relay format, but the biggest change was in the dunk contest, which was broken into two parts. The first was the free-style portion, where the teams had 90 seconds to execute as many dunks as they could, before the three 1-on-1 matchups in the battle format.

The East had already clinched that part by winning the first two, but Wall made it a resounding shutout.

McLemore came out wear-



The winners of the slam dunk contest Paul George of the Indiana Pacers, John Wall of the Washington Capitals and Terrence Ross celebrate during the skills competition at the NBA All Star basketball game, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, in New Orleans.

ing a king's robe and trailed by O'Neal, who unveiled a "Shaquille-Lemore" jersey. He made it over O'Neal's throne on his second attempt, and O'Neal presented him with a crown.

But moments later, Wall was the real king.

"The slam dunk has returned," said Erving, one of the NBA's most famed dunkers.

Before that, the new format was confusing to fans and the West players themselves. The East had it all figured out,

winning the first stage with a passing and dunking display straight out the Harlem Globetrotters, capped by a three-man dunk where Ross threw it off the backboard to Wall, who lobbed it off the overhead shot clock for George to race in and slam it down.

That was just a warm-up for the second round, when Ross, the event's defending champion, started things off by edging Lillard with an assist on his dunk from rapper Drake.

Lillard was the first person to compete in three All-Star Saturday events, adding that to Friday's Rising Stars Challenge and Sunday's game to give him the most ambitious itinerary ever.

He started 2-for-2 by following Friday's victory by winning the skills challenge for the second straight year.

But his run was stopped when Belinelli made his final three shots to finish with 19 points, edging him by one to

advance to the finals from the West. All-Stars Stephen Curry and Kevin Love both finished with 16 points.

"I was happy to just be invited to all of them and be able to compete in them, and I wanted to win at least one. And I won the first one, and then I thought there would be some momentum to continue to try and win all three of them," Lillard said. "But I fell short in the 3-point contest, and as you all saw in the dunk contest, they kind of just outclassed us."

Bradley Beal had 21 points to win the East bracket over defending champion Kyrie Irving, Orlando's Arron Afflalo and Brooklyn All-Star Joe Johnson, who was shooting in slow motion and had three balls left on his final rack and just 11 points when time expired.

Beal then tied Belinelli to force a tiebreaker, and Belinelli won it by making six straight shots at one point, sweeping his fourth rack.

"I was a little bit nervous at the beginning and I think that I shot like two airballs," Belinelli said.

"But in the end I was focused. I really cared about this trophy."

Bosh, Wilkins and Cash won their second straight shooting stars title, with Bosh making a pair of halfcourt shots.

"I keep asking Coach to let me shoot that shot in the game," Bosh said of Miami's Erik Spoelstra. "He won't let me do it yet, but I think that today will give him confidence if he was watching."

The conferences split \$500,000 in winnings for charity.

Drummond's 30-25 wins Rising Stars Challenge

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Andre Drummond had 30 points and a Rising Stars Challenge-record 25 rebounds, leading Team Hill to a 142-136 victory over Team Webber on Friday night.

Besides an impressive tally of dunks and rebounds, Drummond even managed to make his free throws while winning MVP honors. A 41 percent shooter during the regular season, the Detroit forward went 6 for 8, including a pair with 29 seconds left after chasing down Bradley Beal's missed free throw to give his team a five-point lead.

Cleveland's Dion Waiters had 31 points, mostly coming during a 1-on-1 duel with New York's Tim Hardaway Jr. in the second half. Beal finished with 21 for Team Hill, picked by former NBA star Grant Hill.

Hardaway scored 36 points and made seven 3-pointers for fellow former Michigan star Chris Webber's squad. Philadelphia rookie Michael Carter-Williams had 17 points, nine assists and six rebounds.

Portland's Damian Lillard had 13 points, five rebounds and five assists in the victory, making him 1 for 1 during the busiest All-Star weekend ever. Last season's NBA Rookie of the Year will take part in five events, three more on All-Star Saturday and the All-Star game on Sunday.

All-Stars such as Kevin Durant, Dwight Howard and Kyrie Irving watched the game,

with Irving leaping to his feet at one point after watching Waiters, his Cavaliers teammate, try to take over the game with about 8 minutes to play.

Waiters had two baskets and then two 3-pointers, one of them when he stepped back after faking a move to the basket that made Hardaway lose his balance. Hardaway answered back with two 3-pointers of his own as the crowd roared.

Waiters then clinched the duel when he knocked the ball free for a rare defensive highlight in the game, nailing his second straight 3-pointer to give team Hill the lead for good at 126-124 with 2:44 left. Drummond followed with a dunk for a four-point advantage, and Team Webber could never catch up.

The game that began as a matchup of top rookies and later turned into rookies against second-year players now mixes the rosters. That's probably a good thing, since this year's crop of kids is so overwhelming.

Only two of the top 10 picks in the 2013 draft, which has been hindered by injuries, were invited to this game, No. 2 Oladipo and No. 9 Trey Burke.

Players were picked to play on Team Hill and Team Webber, which they wore under their numbers on the back of their jerseys.

Drummond 16 points and 10 rebounds in his first 10 minutes and shot 12 of 21 for the game.

Silver delivers first press conference as NBA boss

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Adam Silver kept his focus on the game but hinted at some changes to the business during his first press conference as NBA commissioner.

From the look of the draft to the look of the uniforms, Silver touched on a number of topics during his remarks that ran about 40 minutes. He replaced David Stern on Feb. 1 and replaced Stern's old format Saturday, standing at a podium instead of sitting at a table.

Silver would like to raise the age limit but isn't sure there's need to change the lottery that precedes the draft. Expansion isn't a current priority—domestically or internationally—but lengthening the All-Star break might be considered.

"This is a fabulous league that has its best years still ahead of it," Silver said.

Among his ways to improve it:

■ The draft: Silver said everywhere he goes that "people dislike so-called one and done," referring to the many players

who go to college for just one year to meet the league's age minimum of being one year out of high school and 19 years old. He favors pushing the age minimum to 20.

"It is my belief that if players have an opportunity to mature as players and as people, for a longer amount of time before they come into the league, it will lead to a better league," he said. "And I know from a competitive standpoint that's something as I travel the league I increasingly hear from our coaches, especially, who feel that many of even the top players in the league could use more time to develop even as leaders as part of college programs."

■ Tanking: "My understanding of tanking would be losing games on purpose, and there's absolutely no evidence that any team in the NBA has ever lost a single game," Silver said.

Nevertheless, he said the Competition Committee would examine the lottery system that gives teams with the worst re-

cords the best chance to win the No. 1 pick. "But I'm not overly concerned right now," he said.

■ The length of the season: He likes the current 82 games, but will look at the idea of longer break at midseason. The league currently shuts down Friday-Monday for All-Star weekend.

"That's something I've heard directly from players on," Silver said. "They're saying that if they could get a few more days off around All-Star, especially the All-Stars, I think, who as we know are so busy over the course of these few days, it would be helpful to them to get some additional rest."

■ The jerseys: "From a fan standpoint, the greatest indicator is how are they selling, and I'll say we're having trouble keeping them in stores," Silver said, referring to the somewhat-maligned sleeved jerseys that were worn on Christmas Day and will be again in Sunday's All-Star game.

But he said some players have complained, though

not about them affecting their shooting, and said it was not the league's or outfitter Adidas' intention to change the core uniform. He also said the league is "not close at the moment" on sponsors on jerseys but he believes "ultimately it will happen in the NBA."

■ Expansion: "It's not on the top of my list right now," Silver said, because he said all 30 teams weren't healthy financially now even after the league's gains during the 2011 lockout.

"My job is to ensure that 30 teams are healthy and competitive, and so that's what my priority is right now as opposed to the salary cap: Owners fought for a hard cap like the NFL in 2011, as opposed to the current NBA system that allows teams to exceed it through the use of certain exceptions. Sounds like that hasn't changed."

"I would like a harder system to distribute players better as opposed to the tax system we have in place now," Silver said.

Pacquiao, Bradley aim for decisive victory in rematch

By ELTON LUGAY
THEFILAM.NET / INQUIRER.NET

NEW YORK—Manny Pacquiao arrived for his press conference looking out of the ordinary. Wearing a shiny blue suit and sporting a new haircut, he walked confidently to greet journalists.

Whatever tax troubles he may have were not apparent in his demeanor. Gone was the hang-dog posture.

The world boxing champion and local politician approached the podium and went straight to the point.

"I know that there's a big question mark in our first fight in 2012, so this time around we have to answer that," he said at the press conference at New World Stages, where Top Rank announced the April 12 Pacquiao-Bradley rematch in

Las Vegas.

"I just want to prove to Brad about what he's saying that my killer instincts and aggressiveness (are gone)—I think he's right—maybe I'm just too kind and nice to my opponents in the ring, but this time around I will have to make sure that I am still (on top)," he added.

Pacquiao and undefeated WBO welterweight world champion

Timothy Bradley's 2012 fight was a controversial split decision marred by allegations of fixing.

Bradley won the match after the 12th round, but boxing analysts and leagues of loyal fans argued the title should have been given to Pacquiao.

Oscar de la Hoya went on to say that Bradley should have refused the title belt as Pac-

quiao had won the fight.

I asked Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach and Top Rank's Bob Arum what assurances they had that questionable decisions will not happen again. "We're gonna have international officials that are much bigger and better panel of judges," Arum told The FilAm.

Nakamura's double, while the latter was driven home by T.J. Dela Cruz's single.

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RED

From Page 28

inning, then finished off the Fielders, striking out the latter's first three batters.

The Fielders absorbed their fourth loss in as many games, missing a chance to win in regulation. The defending champions were at bat at the bottom of the seventh inning and faced a 10-12 deficit before a two-run single from Franklin Lizama tied the game with only one out and Anthony Agulto at third base. Agulto then went for the winning run after Jonathan Camacho singled and Lizama ran to second, but was tagged out by catcher Vincent Deleon Guerrero off a throw from second baseman Jobe Reyes. After the botched offense, the Fielders were called for two quick outs with Red Sox shorts stop Craig Aguon tagging Lizama out and Palacios striking out Dane Salazar to send the

SOUTHERN

From Page 28

complete an interception down the baseline, Amos Ren made the costly error when he went to the wrong side of the court. He dribbled out of the paint and with no Southern defenders chasing him as he got to the left key, Ren headed to the Rays' court for a layup. He missed and Southern's Harley Warren picked up the rebound and pulled up for the go-ahead basket, which the referee counted. The basket should have been nullified and the referees should have called a backing violation on Ren right when the Blazers quarterback crossed midcourt, while awarding possession to Southern.

No calls were made and with both camps and even the spectators still in shock from Ren and the referees' booboos, Eucon sued for time to set up a play in the last 10.1 seconds. However, Southern stood its ground on defense to keep the precarious lead and complete the come-

game into the eighth inning. Leon Guerrero led off for the Red Sox at the top of the first extra inning, singled, and eventually reached home plate off a sacrifice fly Bradley Lieto, while second batter Jose Tyquengco also made it home off errors before the team was called for three outs.

However, the two runs in the eighth inning did not give the Red Sox enough cushion, as the Fielders countered with two runs at the bottom off Wanket's RBI double and a sacrifice out. The game, which started around 4pm, was still in a deadlock in the second extra inning with neither team reaching home plate before the Red Sox finally ended the seesaw battle past 8pm, capitalizing on the exhausted and erratic Fielders.

Jets 6, Braves 2
The Jets edged the Braves to climb up from third to a tie for

from-behind win. Camacho blocked Ren underneath the basket, while Warren also swatted away the ball from Allen Yu, who pulled up for a long jumper from the right baseline in the last 1.3 seconds of the exciting match.

The Rays stole the win from Eucon after coming back from a 13-point deficit, 51-64, midway in the fourth quarter. Southern launched a backbreaking 13-1 run in the next four minutes and change, highlighted by back-to-back triples from Warren and Art Borromeo, to slice Eucon's lead to one, 64-65.

Toni Li scored the Blazers' lone point off a split free throw and Eucon could have prevented a monumental collapse if not for its poor shooting from the foul line in the fourth quarter.

The Blazers went 2-for-14 from the stripe with Yu going 0-for-8, Li hitting 1-for-4, and Ren having a split.

Ren's first free throw gave Eucon the shaky one-point lead, while Emerson Feria also went 1-for-2 earlier to force the first deadlock of the game, 65-all.



Boxer Manny Pacquiao, left, of the Philippines, glances back during a photo opportunity with Timothy Bradley of Indio, Ca., the current WBO World Welterweight champion, during a press conference, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014, in New York. The pair will face off in a WBO World Welterweight title fight April 12, 2014, in Las Vegas.

quiao had won the fight.

I asked Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach and Top Rank's Bob Arum what assurances they had that questionable de-

cisions will not happen again.

"We're gonna have international officials that are much bigger and better panel of judges," Arum told The FilAm.

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celebration for Southern last Friday, as its junior varsity team also won against Eucon, 60-41.

Three players scored in twin digits in the Rays's 19-point win. Ryan Esmundo led the way with his 17 markers, while Borromeo and DJ Espinosa chipped in 10 apiece. Southern now has a 2-4 record, while Eucon dropped to a 2-3 mark.

JV Game

SSHS 60 – Esmundo 17, Borromeo 10, Espinosa 10, Bondoc 8, Deleon Guerrero 6, Rivera 3, Anderson 3.

Eucon 41 – Jam. Wang 14, Je. Wang 6, Ji 5, Jac. Wang 5, Zheng 4, P. Wang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-9, 30-16, 44-28, 60-41.

Varsity Game

SSHS 67 – Flores 13, Palacios 12, Warren 8, Kintaro 7, Bondoc 6, Camacho 6, Feria 5, Borromeo 3, Reyes 2.

Eucon 66 – Yu 39, Li 11, Zhang 6, R. Wang 4, Ren 3, Jac. Wang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-24, 27-38, 41-48, 67-66.

"Well, no assurance really," said Roach. "Bradley said Pacquiao no longer has those killer instincts, we've got to show him that he does. And that motivates me. I think

10 GAIN

From Page 28

Sablan will collide in the other match set for today.

In the boys U12 singles, it will be Ken Song against Sean Lee. Song took the finals ticket in the top half of the bracket after whipping Jamin Elliot in the semis, 8-1, while Lee prevailed in the lower bracket semis against Gang Min Kim, 8-6.

In the boys U14, Robbie Schorr will contest the championship versus Luther Lizama. Schorr was at the upper half of

we'll knock him out this time. I'm very confident that he's going to win."

Roach has announced that Pacquiao will have training camps in General Santos City in the Philippines, China and in Los Angeles.

Bradley's trainer, Joel Diaz, said sharing the ring one more time with Pacquiao was quite a privilege for his boxer.

"I feel there is an unfinished business," he said. "Come April 12, Pacquiao and Bradley are the ones who are gonna give the people what they want to see. It's going to be a great fight, they both have something to prove. Manny is gonna prove that he's still in the game and that he's still the superstar in boxing and for Bradley he has to maintain that title."

Bradley said he had long been an underrated boxer.

the draw and eliminated Joshua Abragan, 8-2, to march into the semis where he got a walkover win over top-ranked Michale Ren. Lizama also played only one game over the weekend and knocked off Tony Kim, 8-2, to make it to the finals against Schorr.

In the co-ed U18 singles, Thea Minor downed the returning Christian Miller in the semis, 8-2, to force a title showdown against Jake Lee, who crushed Colin Ramsey in the other Final Four pairing, 8-1.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NORTHERN TRUST OPEN SCORES

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scores Saturday at the Northern Trust Open, a US PGA Tour event at the par-71, 7,349-yard Riviera Country Club course:

THIRD ROUND

William McGirt	69-67-65 –201
George McNeill	69-68-66 –203
Charlie Beljan	67-68-68 –203
Jason Allred	73-64-67 –204
Brian Harman	67-69-68 –204
Bubba Watson	70-71-64 –205
Cameron Tringale	68-70-67 –205
Jimmy Walker	67-71-67 –205
Jordan Spieth	72-66-67 –205
Charl Schwartzel	69-68-68 –205
Dustin Johnson	66-70-69 –205
Sang-Moon Bae	67-66-72 –205
Bill Haas	72-67-67 –206
Charley Hoffman	67-71-68 –206
Brendan Steele	68-71-67 –206
Aaron Baddeley	69-65-72 –206
Luke Guthrie	71-69-67 –207
John Senden	71-70-66 –207
Lee Westwood	69-70-68 –207
Bryce Molder	69-69-69 –207
Matt Every	69-69-69 –207
Jim Furyk	68-68-71 –207
Robert Garrigus	67-67-73 –207
Hideki Matsuyama	70-69-69 –208
K.J. Choi	69-72-67 –208
Harris English	70-69-69 –208
James Hahn	71-72-65 –208
Blake Adams	67-70-71 –208
Ken Duke	71-69-69 –209
David Lingmerth	70-69-70 –209
Ernie Els	71-70-68 –209
Daniel Summerhays	71-72-66 –209
Matt Jones	67-73-70 –210
Jhonattan Vegas	70-69-71 –210
Kevin Chappell	71-70-69 –210
Brendon Todd	71-70-69 –210
J.J. Henry	70-69-71 –210
Keegan Bradley	68-70-72 –210
Justin Rose	70-72-68 –210

Victor Dubuisson	70-72-68 –210
Stuart Appleby	72-71-67 –210
David Lynn	70-71-70 –211
Francesco Molinari	67-73-71 –211
Robert Allenby	71-69-71 –211
Angel Cabrera	69-71-71 –211
Scott Stallings	67-72-72 –211
Ben Crane	72-70-69 –211
Geoff Ogilvy	74-68-69 –211
Scott Brown	70-67-74 –211
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	71-70-71 –212
Erik Compton	74-67-71 –212
Kevin Stadler	69-69-74 –212
Vijay Singh	75-67-70 –212
Justin Leonard	70-72-70 –212
Harold Varner III	69-72-72 –213
J.B. Holmes	67-71-75 –213
Ian Poulter	72-70-71 –213
Martin Laird	70-73-70 –213
Martin Flores	72-69-73 –214
Kevin Streelman	72-69-73 –214
Jason Gore	71-69-74 –214
Pat Perez	69-72-73 –214
Richard H. Lee	69-72-73 –214
Webb Simpson	70-72-72 –214
John Huh	71-71-72 –214
Will MacKenzie	73-69-72 –214
Marc Leishman	69-74-71 –214
Hunter Mahan	70-73-71 –214
Billy Hurley III	70-71-74 –215
Retief Goosen	73-69-73 –215
Davis Love III	71-71-73 –215
Graham DeLaet	70-73-72 –215
Scott Piercy	71-69-76 –216
Tim Wilkinson	71-72-73 –216
Ben Curtis	70-73-74 –217
Jason Dufner	70-72-76 –218
Michael Putnam	71-72-75 –218

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Various competitions keep athletes busy

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bunch of competitions took place on Saipan last week.

The list includes the opening of the 2014 NMIFA Spring Youth League, the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament, the 2014 NMIVA For the Love of Volleyball Tournament, and the 2014 MDX Amateur Radio Club Basketball League.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association held its season-opening league at the various pitches on the island with the Hopwood Junior High School Field hosting one boys U18 game and two girls U15 matches. The other boys U18 tiff was scheduled at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, which was also the venue for the two boys U15 games. The opening of non-competitive games in the U6, U18, U10, and U12 age groups were also played last week at the different school pitches on Saipan.

In the Coconut Classic, Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association hosted a tournament for the boys and girls U10, U12, and U14 singles, co-ed U18, men's singles open, and the mixed-up doubles. Top-ranked players went on to survive the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Negahr Rastguiy makes a return to Carol Lee during their girls U18 singles game in the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament at the American Memorial Park tennis courts last week.

opening week of the two-week-end competition and are vying for championships in their respective divisions today.

In the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Andrew Johnson battles two Kagman High School players for the rebound during their junior varsity game in the MISO caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Marianas High School player returns to Saipan International School during their game in the MISO volleyball league last week at the MHS Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Falcons batter dodges a hit by pitch from the Rockies during their game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

tournament at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, the pairs of Tyce Mister and Russ Quinn and Jennifer Douglas and Christen Steinkuller took the men's and women's crowns in the two-player beach volleyball event. Sixteen teams joined the annual competition.

In the MDX caging, 10 teams joined with Docomo and San Antonio winning the opening day games at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Meanwhile, other on-going competitions on Saipan continued last week.

In the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization, Marianas High School remained unbeaten in the boys basketball league and girls volleyball and soccer competitions.

In the Saipan Little League Baseball, ITE, Comets I, and the Hustlers shared the Major division lead, while the JPO Enforcers took the solo top spot in the Junior League. In the Senior League, the Braves and Red Sox are the co-leaders, pending results of last weekend's matches.

Still in baseball, defending champions Brewers are alone at the top spot with their 3-0 record, following a 9-7 victory over the Yankees in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League. Also winning last week were the Fielders, who downed the D-9ers, 11-9, at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Over at the Koblerville Elementary School Field, NMIFA continued with its women's recreational 7 v 7 league.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Matansa FC defender pushes off Paire FC's Joel Fruit during the second half of their boys U18 game in the NMIFA youth league last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tyce Mister chases down the ball during his and Russ Quinn's game against Jazz Roskow and Jesse Palacios in the "For the Love" of volleyball tournament at the Hyatt Regency Saipan sand courts.



Oshie's 4 shootout goals lead US past Russia, 3-2
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Wall leads East to All-Star dunk triumph
PAGE 25



28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Red Sox outlast Fielders in marathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Red Sox endured the Tan Holdings Fielders in an excruciating 10-inning and more than four-hour game in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Red Sox won, 22-14, after having some gas left on their tank at the top of the third extra inning and the Fielders finding no reliable pitcher in the end and collapsing on defense. The Red Sox, who remained unbeaten in four games for the solo lead in the six-team field, scored eight runs in the top of the 10th inning with only one batter from their top of the order failing to reach home plate. Five of their first six runs were made off the Fielders' errors, while Henry Lizama hit an RBI single.

Mike Muna was the Fielders' pitcher when the Red Sox's nailed the first six runs and vis-

ibly tired, he was moved to third base in favor of Keola Camacho. Earlier midway in the first extra inning, Kainoa Wanket was called back to shorts stop for Muna after the former reached the maximum number of pitches (95) in that lung-busting game.



With Camacho on the mound and fatigue beginning to take its toll on the rest of the

Fielders' defenders, the Red Sox got two more runs off their opponent's defensive lapses to put pressure on their foe going into the last inning. Jhace Palacios, who relieved Jerald Cabrera midway in the seventh

See RED on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Red Sox's Jhace Palacios tags out a Fielders runner during the bottom of the fourth inning of their game in the Senior League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

10 gain finals berths in Coconut Classic



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Julia Ishikawa, seen here serving during a game in Week 1 of the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament, advanced to the finals of the girls U14 singles after beating Ami Tsukagoshi last weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ten junior players secured finals seats in the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament at the conclusion of the over the weekend games at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

In the girls U14 singles, top-ranked Julia Ishikawa advanced to the finals after dominating Ami Tsukagoshi in the semi-finals last Saturday, 8-1. Ishikawa will be battling the championship against Tania Tan, who outclassed Malika Miyawaki in the other semis pairing.

In the girls U10 singles, Erika Tuttle pulled off an upset over top seed Hana Ojima, 7-6 (5), to arrange a title duel against Maria Gregoire, who defeated Maaya Sato in the lower bracket semis yesterday. Gregoire, the No. 2 seed in the draw, earlier eliminated Marielle Lopez in the quarterfinals last Saturday, 6-2, to set a semis date with Sato, who ousted Ellie Epley, 7-5. Ojima also won her quarterfinal match against Hye



Jin Elliot, 6-1, before bowing to Tuttle, who marched into the semis after a 6-2 triumph over Tiara Imai.

The two other girls singles contests have a round-robin format and winners will only be decided once the games are completed today. In the girls U18 singles, Mikayla Lopez has a 2-0 record after downing Alina Ishikawa in the opening week, 8-1, and Negahr Rastguiry last Saturday, 8-2, and would take the crown if she prevails against Carol Lee today at 12:30m. Lee, who also topped Rastguiry in Week 1, 8-4, has two more games left with the other one against Ishikawa at 11am.

In the girls U12, it will be a sibling battle between Conatsu and Coume Kaga, who have three wins apiece. Conatsu is scheduled to face Jireh Warren in one of the two remaining games today and a victory would give her the girls U12 single tiara and hand her sister Coume (3-1) the runner-up honors. Riko Ojima and Susan

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Southern grabs win off Eucon's costly error



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Southern High School's Gerald Flores is hounded by a phalanx of Eucon International School defenders during the second quarter of their varsity game in the MISO caging last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

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REPORTER

Eucon International School committed a mental lapse in the closing seconds of its varsity game in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League,

allowing Saipan Southern High School to pull off a 67-66 cliff-hanger last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Clinging to a 66-65 lead with about 20 seconds left on clock and regaining possession after Southern's Daniel Camacho failed to

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